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HONG KONG TRADE.

ANNUAL REVIEW

IMPORT AND EXPORT BUSINESS, Shipping, Finance, &c.

In the absence of any official statistics of the import and export trade in the Colony, we give below the views of various business-men regarding trade conditions during the past year. We take this opportunity of thanking those who have kindly provided us with the information on which these reports are based, and for the willing co-operation shown in preparing what we hope will be found an interesting and informative review.

PIECE-GOODS TRADE

THE POSITION OF BRITISH GOODS.

DULL BUSINESS YEAR.

The general tone of the piece-goods business for 1929 has been far from good. These words summarise the position of the trade for the year under review.

To begin with piece-goods orders booked in 1929, when they reached the Colony this year, were found to be higher priced than the goods which were still in stock. British piece-goods had to compete with a serious rival in Japan, and the market during the earlier part of the season was more or less "flooded" there being enough "spot" cargo available to meet all demands.

As a result of this state of affairs no further orders were passed on to British manufacturers from Hong Kong during the summer months of 1929. To add further to the trouble, the civil strife between the various Chinese factions made business with the interior very difficult, and the volume of business in July and August was very small.

The season for booking orders for piece-goods during the second half of the year is November and December, but this year only very small orders have been placed, this being due to the unfavourable rate of exchange prevailing. Only goods booked at high exchange can be sold in this market.

According to one informant, British goods still lead in the Hong Kong market, although Japanese goods, by reason of lower price and quicker delivery, are proving a serious rival for the business. From another source, however, a very different impression is given, as will be seen below. The local requirements in the way of piece-goods is exceptionally small, most

of the cargo imported at Hong Kong finding its way out into the country. The boycott of Japanese goods in China acted as a hindrance to business in this line, but as the boycott was not generally adopted, some business was done. All the time in Japanese piece-goods.

With all these drawbacks, naturally the volume of business done during the year must be small, actually being very much less than in 1928. The price of piece-goods obtained locally has also gone down about ten per cent. since the beginning of the year.

At the close of 1929 dealers find there is plenty of stock in the market, and the godowns are still full enough to cope with the demand without further orders being placed with manufacturers. When the exchange began to drop, the market price for spot goods showed a slight advance, but slowly receded again, so that, at the close of the year, it was at the low exchange, there had been no advance in the price of piece-goods.

Estimated Figures:
The following estimated figures of the value of piece-goods and woollens imported into Hong Kong during this year is obtained from another source:—

| | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| British | \$12,000,000 |
| French, Italian and | |
| German | \$3,000,000 |
| Japanese | \$25,000,000 |

British goods ordered during 1929 but due to arrive in 1930 are estimated at \$3,500,000. It has not been possible to estimate the figures for Japanese goods due to arrive next year, but it is noted that these figures do not bear out the statement made by another merchant (quoted above) that British goods lead the market.

Note.—These reports on trade during 1929 will be reprinted in the "Weekly" Press.

COTTON YARN.

SPECULATION LEADS TO HIGH PRICES.

RUSH TO YUNNAN.

There has been little doing in the Colony in cotton yarns this year, according to a report made by a firm dealing principally in Shanghai yarns.

The position of the market has been influenced both by gambling and by the political situation in China. From August to November speculators had been buying up all the available yarn, so that the mills in China are showing a good profit, and by reason of this "corner" holders of cotton yarn are also making a handsome profit out of their holdings.

The announcement that the authorities at Yunnan will in future collect their taxes in silver instead of in paper money, has resulted in a rush of cotton yarn to Yunnan, dealers being anxious to get in before the new regulations come into force, which will be on January 1. About 10,000 bales, it is learned, have been shipped to Yunnan, and towards the end of the year the position is strong, since all spot stock has been cleared. Even Bombay yarn has been bought up entirely to meet the rush to Yunnan. The boom, however, appears to have subsided, and within the last few days business has slackened again, though only temporarily, it is believed.

LINEN AND GRASS CLOTH.

In former years quite a big business was done by Hong Kong firms in these lines, the demand for linen and grass cloth coming mainly from America, but this year business has not been very good, and it is understood that exporters in Swatow are bringing down their prices.

(Continued on Page 2.)

Diary of Coming Events.

To-day, (December 31.)

New Year's Eve.

Sandakan Light and Power Co., Ltd., Seventh Ordinary Yearly Meeting, St. George's Building, 12.30 p.m.

Cricket: Army v. Navy, Club ground.

Queen's Theatre: "The Black Watch."

World Theatre: "The Fortune Hunter."

Star Theatre: "Masked Emotions."

Ten Dance: Peninsula Hotel, 5 p.m.

New Year's Eve Carnival dances: Peninsula Hotel and Repulse Bay Hotel, 6 p.m.

President's Dance: Craigengower Cricket Club, 9 p.m.

Tides:—High, 11.28 a.m. and 9.13 p.m.; Low, 4.25 a.m. and 4.24 p.m.

European Mails:—Inward: Europe via Negapatam, papers only (Kumrang), 6 p.m. Outward: Europe via Marseilles (d'Arctagnan), 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday, (January 1, 1930.)

New Year's Day.

Watch Night Service at St. Peter's Church, West Point, 11.30 p.m.

Cricket:—H.K.C.C. v. Navy, University Park, Present.

Queen's Theatre: "The Black Watch."

World Theatre: "The Fortune Hunter."

Star Theatre: "Masked Emotions."

Special Tiffin: Repulse Bay Hotel, 1 p.m.

Special Tea Dances: H.K. Peninsula and Repulse Bay Hotels, 5 p.m.

Dinner Dances: Peninsula Hotel and Hong Kong Hotel, 8.30 p.m.

Tides:—High, 12.12 p.m. and 9.44 p.m.; Low, 5.01 a.m. and 3.13 p.m.

Thursday, (January 2.)

Cricket:—H.K.C.C. v. Navy, Club ground.

Hockey:—Club v. H.K.S.R.A., Marina ground, 5 p.m.

Legislative Council Meeting.

Monthly Meeting, H.K. Football Referees Association, French Bank Building, 5.30 p.m.

Queen's Theatre: "The Black Watch."

World Theatre: "Single Standard."

Star Theatre: "Masked Emotions."

Ten Dances: Hong Kong and Peninsula Hotels, 5 p.m.

Dinner Dances: Hong Kong, Peninsula and Repulse Bay Hotels, 8.30 p.m.

Tides:—High, 12.52 p.m. and 10.16 p.m.; Low, 5.37 a.m. and 3.41 p.m.

Friday, (January 3.)

Christmas Fellowship Meeting, Helena May Institute, 10.30 a.m.

U.S.R.C. Annual Tennis Tournament, 1st round.

Queen's Theatre: "The Viking."

World Theatre: "Single Standard."

Star Theatre: "Zanda the Great."

Ten Dances: Hong Kong and Peninsula Hotels, 6 p.m.

Dinner Dances: H.K. Hotel and Peninsula Hotel, 8.30 p.m.

Tides:—High, 1.31 p.m. and 10.49 p.m.; Low, 6.14 a.m. and 6.04 p.m.

European Mails:—Inward: Europe via Suez (Mantua).

Saturday, (January 4.)

New Territories Agricultural Show, Shek Wu Hui.

Cricket:—Division I: Kowloon C.C. v. Army (L), Civil Service v. H.K.C.C. (F), Division II: H.K. C.C. v. Civil Service (L), University v. R.A. (L), Recreation v. R.E. & S. (L), Craigengower v. R.A.S.C. (F), R.A.O.C. v. India R.C. (F).

Football:—Senior: Division: Police v. Royal Artillery, Recreation v. Chinese, Kowloon v. Club, Navy v. Somerset, K.O.S.B. v. St. Joseph's, Junior Division: Club v. K.O.S.B., Chinese "A" v. University, St. Joseph's v. Chinese "B", Somerset v. Ewo, Royal Artillery v. Recreation, South China v. "B", R.A.M.C., South China "A" v. Kowloon.

Queen's Theatre: "The Viking."

World Theatre: "Single Standard."

Star Theatre: "Zanda the Great."

Ten Dances: Hong Kong and Peninsula Hotels, 5 p.m.

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No. 1 HAMPER—\$42.

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|--|------------------------------------|
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| 1 Pt. Blackberry Brandy. | 2 Qts. St. Julien Claret. |
| 1 Pt. D.O.M. | 1 Qt. Old Brown Sherry, Black Seal |
| 1 Qt. Martell's XXX Brandy. | 1 Qt. Puritan Old Tom or Dry Gin. |
| 2 Qts. King George IV Gold Label or Perfection Whisky. | 1 Qt. Burgundy, Burgoyne's. |
| | 1 Phial Pomeranzen Bitters. |

No. 2 HAMPER—\$38.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Qt. Guillemart Champagne. | 2 Qts. Tawny Dry Port. |
| 1 Pt. D.O.M. | 2 Qts. St. Julien Claret. |
| 1 Qt. Burgoyne's Burgundy. | 1 Qt. Puritan Old Tom or Dry Gin. |
| 1 Qt. Martell's XXX Brandy. | 1 Qt. Vino de Pasto Sherry. |
| 2 Qts. King George IV Gold Label or Perfection Whisky. | 1 Phial Pomeranzen Bitters. |

No. 3 HAMPER—\$33.

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Qt. Burgoyne's Burgundy. | 1 Qt. Engman's XXX Brandy. |
| 1 Pt. Peppermint G.F. | 1 Qt. Amontillado Sherry. |
| 1 Pt. D.O.M. | 1 Qt. Puritan Old Tom or Dry Gin. |
| 2 Qts. Superior Rich Old Port. | 2 Qts. Medoc Claret. |
| 2 Qts. King George IV Gold Label or Perfection Whisky. | 1 Phial Pomeranzen Bitters. |

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HONG KONG.

HONG KONG TRADE IN 1929.

COTTON GOODS.

It may not be generally known that there are several factories in Hong Kong manufacturing cotton singlets and socks.

One manufacturer who had statistics before him stated that the singlets and socks manufactured locally are of such good quality, and can be sold at such a low price, that they are cutting out all foreign competition in these lines.

During the year, according to this merchant, several million dollars' worth of business must have been done, as there is a great demand for socks from Java and the Philippines, with the Straits running close as one of the heaviest buyers. The labouring classes in these places find Hong Kong socks very cheap and, being machine-made, well finished. In these territories, previous to the appearance of the Hong Kong socks, imported cotton goods have been expensive, and beyond the means of many of the labouring class.

The durability of these socks is a great point in their favour. Recently India has come into the market, and towards the close of the year further substantial orders have been received.

SILK GOODS.

SILK SHAWLS.—Dealers generally report a good year's business in ready-made silk goods, and the fear which was entertained some time back that the export of shawls would be very much diminished, due to the appearance in some of the principal consuming centres of the popular Haori coats, manufactured in Japan, was happily not well-founded. In comparison with shawls, the Haori coats are cheaper in price and better in appearance, but in spite of these advantages statistics kept by those in the purchasing centres show that the shawl has not been put out of the market; in fact, the demand is now as great as ever, consequently local exporters of shawls report a good year.

It is interesting to add that the Canton embroidery which appears on these silk shawls is considered the best in the world, and cannot be copied by other manufacturers. This is the chief export in ready-made silk from Canton.

SHANGHAI SILK.—This line is exported in great quantity from Shanghai, but some of this business comes through Hong Kong, and small quantities are exported from this port. Shanghai silk, it is understood, is much in demand and is a strong rival to Japanese silk, which is very much favoured in Europe and America. The Shanghai silk, according to dealers, costs more, and has not the finish of Japanese silk, but is in demand because of its durability, buyers being impressed by its lasting qualities.

CANTON CREPE SILK.—The world demand for this class of silk is slackening, and although it was once very much in evidence, during the last two years business in this line has been gradually diminishing. For this year a very lean turnover is recorded, the chief consumer being the United States.

SILK BUSINESS IN HONG KONG.—Hong Kong's consumption of silk is high, and shopkeepers have done a roaring trade, but in view of the keen competition and the number of shops increasing almost daily, the margin of profit is very small. Shanghai silk finds a ready market here, and Japanese silk also is much in demand, particularly one variety which is sold among the Chinese under the name of "Indian" silk, but which in fact has nothing to do with India.

CHINESE PONGEE SILK.—In comparison with former years, Hong Kong's export of Chefoo pongee has grown. The Colony competes with Shanghai in the export of pongee silk, but traders are of the opinion that the bulk of this business is handled here. Once again exporters have to contend with keen Japanese competition, as the large output of Fuji silk is one reason why the sale of pongee silk is not increasing in consuming centres.

CHINESE EMBROIDERY.—The demand for old embroidery seems to have fallen off unaccountably this year, and very little business is reported. This is difficult to understand, as traders and dealers in this line cannot trace any competition, but nevertheless business is not brisk, and old embroidery seems to be losing its appeal to possible buyers.



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TRADE STATISTICS.

SOME INTERESTING FIGURES.

As no official statistics are compiled regarding imports and exports into and from Hong Kong, it is not possible to get accurate information relating to the Colony's foreign trade during 1929. The following figures, however, are believed to be approximately correct, and give an idea of the chief import lines and countries of origin:

| Coarse Blankets. | |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Italy | \$500,000 |
| Blankets. | |
| Britain | \$350,000 |
| Knitting Wool. | |
| Britain | \$600,000 |
| Bedspreads. | |
| Japan | \$2,900,000 |
| Felt Hats. | |
| Japan | \$500,000 |
| Italian | \$150,000 |
| Britain | \$90,000 |
| America | \$50,000 |
| Enamel Ware. | |
| Japan | \$50,000 |
| Britain | \$70,000 |
| America | \$50,000 |
| Germany | \$100,000 |
| Sweden | \$300,000 |
| Toilet Goods. | |
| France | \$300,000 |
| America | \$50,000 |
| Britain | \$40,000 |
| Hardware. | |
| Germany | \$500,000 |
| Britain | \$200,000 |
| America | \$300,000 |
| France | \$100,000 |
| Builders' Hardware. | |
| Britain | \$5,000,000 |
| America | \$2,000,000 |
| Germany | \$500,000 |
| Belgium | \$800,000 |
| Window Glass. | |
| Belgium | \$250,000 |
| Plate Glass. | |
| Britain | \$100,000 |
| Germany | \$100,000 |
| Belgium | \$150,000 |

PERFUMERY AND TOILET REQUISITES.

Keen competition has been and is being experienced between British, American, and German manufacturers of perfumes, dentifrices, and toilet requisites generally. Intensive advertising during the past year has seen the market well stocked with German perfumes, while American shaving soaps and "soap substitutes" have "boomed" to a remarkable extent. Local dealers, however, regard this as being a mere temporary craze, the sale of such preparations being strictly limited to European residents. Complaint is made that the British manufacturers do not make sufficient use of advertising.

The annual turnover in the Colony of perfumery and toilet requisites amounts to nearly half-a-million dollars and formed no inconsiderable percentage of the Colony's trade. Of this, practically 70 per cent, is conducted with British firms, 25 per cent, with American, and the remainder with Japanese concerns. Local druggists state that, while British goods are undoubtedly superior in quality, the advertising campaigns conducted by German manufacturers places British goods at a disadvantage in the Chinese market, as effective advertising generally makes an irresistible appeal to the Chinese mind. There is an increasingly large demand among the Chinese for cod-liver oil and malt extracts, Chinese medical practitioners being more prone of late to prescribe these preparations in tubercular cases. So far, almost the entire control of the market for this commodity is held by British interests.

According to statements made by some of the leading Hong Kong stores, the perfumery trade has shown an increase of at least 10 per cent, over that of the preceding year and this upward movement is likely to continue.

SANDALWOOD.

VERY LEAN YEAR FOR DEALERS.

HUGE STOCKS ON HAND.

Dealers in sandalwood are faced with a very difficult problem, as at the close of the year they find themselves left with huge stocks on their hands, with prices going down due to absence of demand and to keen competition for what little business that is offering. Throughout the first six months of the year business was slack, there being very little demand. A slight improvement was noticed by the end of June and during July, but the fighting in North China and along the banks of the Yangtze about this time put a stop to all business with this district. This was very bad for sandalwood dealers, as the Yangtze ports are the largest consumers of sandalwood. Clearances locally fell off considerably, and very little improvement in the trade has been noticed since.

From the dealer's point of view, the year has not only been unprofitable, but a loss has had to be met by some firms, as the falling-off in demand has led to serious reactions in Hankow and Shanghai, several firms being compelled to close down. As these firms usually obtain their supplies from Hong Kong dealers on credit, it can be seen how severely the Colony's sandalwood trade has been hit.

Owing to the uncertain political situation in China it is difficult to make any forecast as to the prospects of this trade for next year. Dealers, in view of the heavy stock in the Colony and the possible fall in price in consequence, are only buying just what is necessary for the time being. This "hand-to-mouth" policy is doing the business no good, and it would seem that lower prices must come in before local stocks can be cleared.

West Australian sandalwood was quoted at \$23 toward the end of the year and South Australian at about \$21. The prices for these at the beginning of the year were about \$25 and \$23 respectively.

PAPER UMBRELLAS.

Exporters of paper umbrellas report a very good year, as the demand for these comes from every part of the world, and practically all supplies available are "snapped" up.

These umbrellas are attractive, and good designs find a ready market everywhere. While no authentic figures are available, it is believed the business done during 1929 must have been double that of former years.

One objection to the paper umbrella in some European countries is the smell, which is inseparable from the peculiar quality of the polish and varnish used. Attempts by manufacturers to produce silk shades, flowered and shaped like a very good response from purchasing centres, but the price is twice that of the ordinary paper umbrella, although there is no change whatever in the frames. The new method, however, does away with the smell, and it will be interesting to watch the demand for paper and silk umbrellas during the coming year.

ELECTRICAL GOODS AND FITTINGS.

The Chinese are growing daily more "electrically-minded." During the past few years an increasingly large business has been done locally by the agents of the larger European and American combines in Hong Kong, and the fact that the China Light and Power Co. is planning an intensive scheme of development in connection with the linking-up by cable of the villages in the New Territories indicates that saturation point is by no means in sight yet. Most of the appliances and fittings imported into the Colony are for domestic use, although those few factories in which heavy machinery requires to be driven favour electric power for reasons of economy.

Apart from radio sets and parts, no serious competition is experienced from German or French sources by British and American firms who, of course, dominate the market, the biggest Anglo-American combine being quick to seize every opportunity of advertising their goods among the Chinese.

During the past year many huge blocks of Chinese flats, both old and new, have been wired and electric light fittings installed. As far as can be gathered, it would appear that the usual types and makes of 32-50 c.p. lamps are equally popular here.

Japanese electric fans seem to enjoy a popular sale both in European and Chinese circles, the keenly competitive prices making an especial appeal to the Chinese.

Refrigerators.

The old-fashioned ice-boxes are fast disappearing, and electric refrigerators are claiming public attention. Indeed, the representative of one well-known electrical firm stated recently that the sale of domestic refrigerators during the summer of 1929 represented over one-half of the firm's total business, quite a number of orders having been received from outports.

In addition to domestic refrigerating appliances, contracts have been carried out in connection with the installation of electric refrigerating plant during 1929 in two large hotels, and it is believed there will be scope for further business in this direction in the near future.

CURIOS.

In comparison with prices prevailing a few years ago, curios have come down in value, but good business is reported, and local shops—as well as those solely interested in export trade—have generally found the year a prosperous one.

There is a great demand, it appears, for cloisonne ware, glass ware, silk lampshades done in oriental fashion, lacquer and ivory wares, cheap bone carvings, and jade trinkets.

The export of these articles to Europe and America is sufficient to provide quite a few firms with all their business.

Local dealers report a very successful year from the sales point of view, and although margins in some cases have been cut down to a minimum to come to business, yet the large turnover is encouraging, as it is considered to be the largest on record since 1923.

FIRE-CRACKERS.

EXPORTS UP BUT PRICES DOWN.

So long as the "Glorious Fourth" is celebrated in the United States, and the New Year in Java during April, there will be a brisk business in the export of fire-crackers. Exports to Java and the United States during 1929 show an appreciable increase over the preceding year, although values have not increased in proportion to turnover. This was in a large part due to severe competition, which forced both manufacturers and exporters to lower their prices almost to the level of cost. However, due to decline in exchange and freight at a time when the bulk of the business was already booked, merchants have been rewarded to some extent.

The fact that sales were much greater in quantity is clear evidence of gradual improvement in this trade, and those who like to look forward as to the prospects for future years believe there is every indication of a continuation of active business in this promising article.

PRESERVED GINGER.

Hong Kong is one of the main distributing centres in China for preserved ginger, the annual business of the Colony in this line easily exceeding half-a-million dollars. Large quantities of the plant are grown in the New Territories, but by far the major portion of the total prepared and preserved in the Colony is imported from the country districts around Canton.

The year 1928 started off poorly in this particular line. For one thing, the political situation in the South was growing more tense, and trade was naturally adversely affected.

Again, the end of the preceding year saw a glut of Chinese ginger in the American and European markets, and a consequent slump in prices followed. With heavy stocks left on their hands, some firms abroad who had placed large orders with local concerns, in order to ease their threatened losses, found fault with deliveries, complained of deterioration, and that consignments were not up to usual standards.

Gradually, however, the situation in the foreign and China markets became easier, and new orders began to come in. Business reached normal figures about the middle of the year, and has continued to improve.

Contrary to expectations, the drought did not seriously affect the quantity or the quality of the year's crop. The farmers, however, in the hopes that a poor crop and scarcity of the root might possibly see consequent soaring in prices, conserved their stocks. A natural increase in price followed, \$22 per cask being demanded by the farmers.

Fortunately, however, the majority of the bigger preservers in Hong Kong had sufficient stocks in hand to enable them to checkmate this move.

In a very short time, the prices charged by the farmers for the raw root dropped until, at the end of the year, the standard price was approximately \$18.70 per cask of high grade root.

It is satisfactory to note that the demand abroad for preserved ginger from Hong Kong shows a slight tendency to increase.

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HONG KONG TRADE IN 1929.

ORE AND METALS.

WOLFRAM TOUCHES NEW RECORDS.

CHINESE TIN OVER-PRODUCED.

JAPAN'S POSITION AS CHINA'S CUSTOMER.

In the reports which reach us from dealers in ore and metals, it is noted that the price of wolfram ore touched a new record this year, and that the demand from Europe and America is very brisk.

In every branch of the ore business the difficulty of transportation from the interior to Hong Kong is put down as one reason why business in minerals produced in South China has been difficult.

Chinese tin producers are facing keen competition from Straits tin, and considerable over-production has led to lower prices.

Japan's position, as a buyer of Chinese ore has been growing more and more important, and in the matter of supplying certain steel products, she is finding a much better market in China, owing to lower prices, than European and American producers.

WOLFRAM ORE.

EUROPE AND AMERICA BUYS OVER 2,000 TONS.

As the main producing centre of wolfram ore is China, business in this trade is keenly watched in the Colony, which competes with Shanghai as the shipping centre through which this ore finds its way to Europe and America.

A record price was touched this year, no less than \$80 per picul, being offered recently for wolfram ore. This is due to the fact that transportation between the producing districts and Hong Kong is exceedingly difficult, due to the civil war and general commotion in the South.

At the beginning of the year the price per picul was in the vicinity of \$30, but no sooner did the Kwangsi group take up arms against the National Government than the price advanced to \$45 per picul, and continued to soar during the months of May and June, touching \$80 by the end of the first half-year. This upward tendency continued during the following months of July and August, \$70 and then \$75 being touched, and in a few isolated instances no less than \$80 per picul was paid.

This high price, fortunately, was not maintained for very long, and from October the market gradually "eased." By November it had receded to \$68, and at the beginning of December business could have been closed at \$60. The demand, which earlier in the year had come from London and New York, slackened towards the end of the year, and consequently little or no business has been recorded this month.

It is anticipated, however, that the demand will very soon set in again; in fact, it is fully expected that orders will be received in the first month of the New Year, as China is the biggest supplier of this ore and dealers must turn in this direction whenever they want supplies. The quantity, as far as it has been possible to ascertain, which was exported from Canton and Hong Kong to Europe and America this year is about 2,000 tons. This figure, it must be noted, is not obtained through official sources, as since the abolition of the Import and Export Office, exact statistics are not available in regard to any commodity.

That the year has been a very prosperous one for producers is evidenced by the following statistics, showing the highest and lowest market prices per picul during the last five years:

| | Lowest. | Highest. |
|------------|---------|----------|
| 1925 | \$17 | \$30 |
| 1926 | \$18 | \$25 |
| 1927 | \$22 | \$30 |
| 1928 | \$22 | \$35 |
| 1929 | \$30 | \$80 |

It is believed that at one time the National Government intended to deal in this ore by granting monopolies, but owing to the difficulty in transportation and the uncertainty at producing centres as to the quantity available from time to time, the scheme has been temporarily shelved. The most important producing centre this year has been Kiangsi province next to which comes Kwangtung and Kwangsi.

On many occasions, shippers have had to claim *force majeure* or request extension of the contracted shipment dates owing to transportation difficulties. A case is also known where an entire shipment was sunk in the East River by

One merchant interested in this business states that exporters on the whole have not found trade profitable as, in a great number of instances, analysis of shipments locally differed from those at destination by over 10 per cent., a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and detrimental to the trade in this Colony. This matter is being investigated, and may perhaps lead to a better working arrangement in the future.

MANGANESE ORE.

JAPAN PRINCIPAL BUYER FROM SOUTH CHINA.

Practically the whole of the output from South China of manganese ore has been absorbed by Japan, and although Europe and America have been making bids for this commodity, they have not been able to compete with Japan as a buyer.

This is due to several reasons, the chief of which is that the low rate of exchange with Japan, which is still on a downward tendency, has enabled Japanese bidders to offer higher prices than competitors from other countries. It is estimated that Japan has purchased no less than 10,000 tons of manganese ore during the year.

Exportation has been a difficult problem, as it has not been easy to bring this ore from Kwangsi, where it is produced, to Hong Kong, due to civil commotion and to banditry.

Since the commencement of the recent trouble in Kwangtung and Kwangsi, the transportation of ore has stopped entirely, so that towards the close of the year no further business has been reported. However, as hostilities have now almost ceased, it is expected that some large shipments will be made from Hong Kong at the beginning of next year, when some 3,000 to 4,000 tons is expected.

The price of manganese ore has not moved very appreciably this year, about \$28 per ton, f.o.b. Hong Kong being offered for ore of 50 per cent. purity. Ore of about 45 per cent. purity fetched only \$22 a ton in the same period. A slight advance was recorded between August and December, the price per ton being \$30 and \$24 for 50 and 45 per cent. purity respectively.

A small quantity of manganese ore is obtainable at Pakhoi, in the south-west of Kwangtung province, the quantity being about 45 per cent. purity, but the port is not convenient for shipping, as owing to the shallow water only very small steamers can reach Pakhoi.

BISMUTH ORE.

EUROPE BUYING AT HIGH PRICES.

The production of bismuth ore is very small, but what little is produced fetches high prices, no less than \$2,000 per ton being offered this year.

Dealers report that production has been very limited, it being estimated that only from 80 to 100 tons was marketed during the last twelve months. This has all been snapped up by buyers in Europe.

The price of \$2,000 per picul has been maintained during the year, and is likely to remain steady during the coming year, there being no special reason to anticipate a rise.

ANTIMONY ORE.

Market conditions for antimony have not been very tempting for 1929, about \$100 per ton being offered from Europe and America. The production is very small, and throughout the twelve months it is believed that only from 1,000 to 1,500 tons has been produced in South China.

The price, of course, is regulated by the demand from Europe and America, but the market has been gradually sliding down, and at the close of the year only \$80 per picul is being offered for "spot."

THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR.

MONTHLY T.T. RATES.

The fluctuations of exchange during the year may be judged from the following figures:

| January 31 | 2/ |
|--------------------|----------|
| February 28 | 1/11 1/2 |
| March 31 | 1/11 1/2 |
| April 30 | 1/11 1/2 |
| May 31 | 1/11 |
| June 30 | 1/11 1/2 |
| July 31 | 1/11 1/2 |
| August 31 | 1/11 1/2 |
| September 30 | 1/10 1/2 |
| October 31 | 1/8 1/2 |
| November 30 | 1/8 1/2 |
| December 31 | 1/7 1/2 |

CHINESE TIN.

LOW PRICES AND OVER-PRODUCTION.

Chinese tin, which comes principally from Yunnan province, through Haiphong, has suffered a set-back in price, during 1929, as owing to the keen competition of producers of Straits tin, there has been what might be described as over-production.

The tin produced from Yunnan province is taken to Haiphong by rail, where it is shipped to Hong Kong for distribution to the various buying centres.

America and Japan are the largest buyers, but a good quantity is used in China, Shanghai buyers being quite often in the market for this ore.

The quantity shipped to America from Hong Kong during the past twelve months is placed at between 3,000 and 3,700 tons. Japan has bought about 1,700 tons, and Shanghai and Foochow has purchased about 2,500 tons. The total quantity exported is between 7,000 and 8,000 tons.

As is generally known, the largest and most important centre for the production of tin is the Straits Settlements, the product being sold as Straits tin. Owing to the keen competition offered by producers of Straits tin, Chinese tin has receded in price, and the quantity exported has decreased year by year. While the trend of prices has been downward, production is more than enough to cope with the consumption.

The tin-plate industry in Europe and America is not too promising for the tin producing business, and dealers (who after all are mere distributors) fear that the low prices prevailing will be continued for some time. A small re-action in the steady downward trend of prices may be noted now and then, but no permanent rise in prices is anticipated in well-informed quarters.

The London market price for this commodity at the beginning of the year was about \$225 per ton, and this figure was maintained until March, when it dropped to \$220. In April and May it receded further and touched respectively \$216, \$203, and then \$196. In June some business was recorded at \$197, and then a slight revival in rates was observed, \$202 being paid at the end of June. In July the London price was \$214 and in August \$210, but since September another drop was recorded, the price being then \$205. In October it fell as low as \$182 per ton, but business during the last two months has been at slightly better rates, \$195 being offered.

FLOUR MARKET.

LIMITED BUSINESS BUT PROSPECTS BRIGHT.

Only a limited amount of business, confined to meet the bare necessities of the market, was done this year in flour.

The first six months were very dull, and although business "has always been slack for the first few months it was particularly so this year, and consequently prices were ruling very low in June.

In July a rise of 20 per cent. was recorded in America, due to millers holding off; the business locally was correspondingly influenced, a rise being noted. Since then the price of flour has been gradually going up, but business is very restricted, as the Chinese are not buying more than absolutely necessary owing to the uncertainty of the political situation. Moreover, the new taxation is making business very difficult. During the summer, it is gratifying to note, the local stock was almost cleared up.

Since the drop in exchange business is a little better locally, and the prospects for next year are quite good.

It is interesting to note the figures supplied by a leading firm of flour dealers regarding the world's wheat position. The actual wheat production for 1928 is given as follows:

| | Bushels. |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Canada | 494,000,000 |
| America | 903,000,000 |
| Australia | 160,000,000 |
| Argentina | 300,000,000 |
| India | 290,000,000 |
| Europe (excluding Russia) | 1,300,000,000 |
| Total | 3,547,000,000 |

The estimated production on July 1 this year was about 600,000,000 bushels less than last year, and since then it has been found that even this shortage is a conservative estimate. In U.S.A. and Canada alone the shortage between the estimated production for this year and the actual production of last year is placed at a little over 300,000,000 bushels! Comment on the tendency of the market during the next few months would be superfluous.

THE COAL MARKET.

JAPANESE COAL STILL IN DEMAND.

COMPETITION FROM INDIA.

The practical monopoly which Japanese coal had enjoyed in Hong Kong was somewhat shaken in 1929 by the appearance of Indian coal on the market, at a price which— for the present, at least— makes Japanese coal look expensive.

The figures to the end of the year were not available when this report was written, but according to statistics up to the end of November, it would seem that the import of coal into the Colony is a little less this year than last. The figures for the various classes of coal are given below.

On the whole, 1929 has not been so good a year as 1928, but since October the heavy drop in exchange has had its effect upon the local market, and prices have gone up roughly \$1.50 per ton, which is about 10 per cent. above the prices ruling prior to the drop in exchange. This rise, though welcome, is not enough to meet the deficiency caused by the drop in exchange in Yen and Hong Kong dollars, which should have made the price of coal a further 10 per cent. higher. The real position, therefore, is that local buyers, although they are paying more for their coal since the drop in exchange, are really not paying enough to dealers who have to meet a drop of 20 per cent. in exchange against a rise of 10 per cent. in price. Accordingly, for the New Year, a further advance in the price of Japanese coal is fully expected.

Eighty per cent. of the coal imported into Hong Kong is for bunkering, and the smaller turnover this year is traceable to the fact that freight business in the Colony has slackened, and consequently the demand for coal has diminished.

A New Rival.

A special feature of this year's business is the appearance in the market of large quantities of Indian coal. This coal is being sold cheaper than Japanese coal, and consequently is finding ready buyers. Chinese coal, Kailan or Kaiping, is also cheaper than Japanese, and is enjoying a fairly good demand.

At the moment Japanese coal is still leading, and although Indian and Chinese coal at present is cheaper, it is confidently expected that prices must advance in the near future, as the drop in exchange must affect everyone.

The best quality Japanese coal can be obtained at about \$17 per ton, ex-ship. Against this, Kailan coal can be bought in Hong Kong at about \$16 per ton ex-ship for the best quality. Indian coal, best quality, ex-ship is about \$18 per ton. The prices are all in Hong Kong dollars.

The quantity of coal imported into Hong Kong during the first eleven months of the present year is estimated at 685,000 tons, made up as follows:

| | Tons. |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Japanese | 337,000 |
| Indian | 145,000 |
| Tonkin | 121,000 |
| Kaiping and North China | 50,000 |
| Fushan | 37,000 |
| Other places | 20,000 |
| Total | 685,000 |

THE STEEL TRADE.

IMPORTS DECREASE OWING TO HOSTILITIES.

Dealers interested in the steel business report that the local import of steel has diminished appreciably during the present year, owing no doubt to the fact that hostilities in China have affected industrial development, and that Hong Kong as a distributing centre is consequently handling a smaller turnover.

Owing to the dullness of the market, the import of constructional steel from Europe has depreciated heavily, and the Canton situation is not likely to encourage prospective buyers to place orders with dealers in Hong Kong.

Added to this trouble is the continued fall of the Hong Kong dollar, which of course is against all imports, and consequently it is feared there will not be very much bigger business in 1930 than has been the case this year.

As regards galvanised steel sheets, which come largely from Japan—the Japanese being well able to underquote their competitors in Europe and America—only a very small business has to be placed on record. Here again the sudden fall of exchange is responsible for the cessation of orders



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THE RICE MARKET.

NEW AND SERIOUS COMPETITION.

PRICES AND DEMAND BOTH DOWN.

Rather a gloomy view is taken by those interested in the rice business. There has been a fair amount of trade done, but the end of the year sees a decline in prices and demand, with the United States, owing to competition from Mexico.

Considerable activity was displayed upon the arrival of new-crop rice at the beginning of 1929, owing to depleted stocks from 1928, and prices were fairly well maintained in consequence. Sustained by a brisk demand from the West Coast of South America, as much as 18 shillings per cwt. c.i.f. was booked for January shipment to that destination.

Activity subsided as requirements were filled, and with heavy arrivals from Siam and Saigon—coupled with the proximity of China New Year (February 10) when suppliers were anxious to clear their stocks—prices receded and the market became dull, with a downward tendency.

Big Supplies and Small Demand.

Continued dullness accompanied by receding prices characterized the market for the next three months. Supplies continued to come in liberal quantities from the producing centres, with only a light demand. Canton and the neighbouring provinces, one of the

the local trade, had been entirely closed for over a month, due to political disturbances; moreover, there was great depreciation of the Chinese subsidiary currency.

During May a fair amount of trading was recorded at prices which enabled suppliers to dispose of their holdings without serious loss. Siam and Saigon markets had practically stopped shipments to this port, and directed them where more favourable prices could be obtained. South American buyers having come into the market at this time, bought advantageously at about 16s. per cwt. c.i.f.

Toward the middle of June a small improvement in conditions occurred. With local supplies exceeding the demand, prices advanced considerably. The Saigon market rose, due to a heavy demand from Java and the shortage in arrivals of paddy. Siam reported a market firm, with stronger tendency.

In sympathy with the advance in prices at producing centres the local market responded, and a fairly satisfactory business was transacted at rising values during the months of July to September. The decline in exchange at the beginning of October materially assisted to offset the higher prices of this cereal, with the result that business was brisk.

Serious Competition in American Market.

The new crop of China rice made its appearance in the month of October, but only a very small volume of business was registered with the U.S.A., buyers being reluctant to pay the high prices demanded. The prospects of the China rice trade in this direction are very unfavourable, as a new grade of Mexican rice has been recently introduced in the United States which compares favourably with the local

WOOD OIL.

BUSINESS SUSPENDED.

The wood oil exported from Hong Kong is a product of Kwangsi Province, and the estimated total exports during 1929 amounted to about 8,000 tons, U.S.A. taking about 65 per cent. of that quantity. The local price has fluctuated between \$33 and \$33.50 a picul ex godown. During December the civil war along the West River stopped all arrivals, and wood oil has been unobtainable in Hong Kong.

compares favourably with the local Seemin grade, and it is feared that within the next two years this local trade will be totally ruined.

Reports of a good harvest in both Siam and Saigon mark the commencement of a decline in prices, and demand from foreign markets has also slackened.

The rice market presented no new feature except the rather weaker tone at the close of the year for new crop rice. Demand was slack, and a moderate business was done with South America at about 17s. per cwt. c.i.f. for Siam Garden 5 per cent. as usually shipped, equivalent to a local price of H.K.\$9 per picul f.o.b. for December shipment.

The Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce during the year standardized the various grades of rice, and it is hoped that merchants will take full advantage of this kind assistance in improving the local trade.

THE CHINESE BANKS. GOOD YEAR'S BUSINESS REPORTED.

Chinese banks, popularly known as native banks, have a good year to report. In an interview with a prominent Chinese banker as to the year's business, a *Daily Press* representative was told that at the outset of the year there was a little anxiety among the banks, as quite a number of them had speculated in tael, having bought large quantities at 80, and the subsequent rise to 85 caused much concern, many firms losing money. A good number, however, were convinced that the tael would fall eventually, and by paying penalties to the European banks for extension, etc., they were able to hold off long enough to show a profit, for the rate eventually did come down to 77 and 78. Chinese banks did an extensive business this year in clean loans,

that is, loans to reputable firms and individuals without security. The interest charged is 9 or 10 per cent. per annum, and as there have been no important business failures to report this year, the bankers have done very well.

Another reason for the good year is the appreciation of share prices (dealt with elsewhere), which enabled bankers to sell shares which they had been holding since 1925. Most of these shares had been mortgaged by defaulting clients, and the year 1929 offered bankers an opportunity to realise some liquid cash out of their holdings.

Money-Changers.

Money-changers generally report a good year, as it is learned that many of them foresaw the drop in exchange and took full advantage of it. A few were badly hit by defaulting speculators in Central Bank notes, but in spite of this, there have been no notable failures on the part of either money-changers or the smaller banks.

SHIPPING IN 1929.

FREIGHT MARKETS.

POOR YEAR FOR COASTAL STEAMERS.

KEEN COMPETITION.

MANY SHIPS RUN AT A LOSS.

SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT AS YEAR ENDS.

The year 1929 will be long remembered by those interested in the chartering of steamers, as business passed through a very trying stage during the summer months. At one time things were so bad that several Norwegian ships had to lay up in harbour and pay off part of their crews, waiting for better times. At another stage, in the absence of any movement of cargoes from normal sources, there was keen competition for the Tonkin coal trade, which usually is not attractive. Rates paid for coal charter were ruinously low, but notwithstanding this some owners were glad enough to secure business for their steamers, and are reported to have accepted ridiculously low terms and granted generous commission for this business.

July and August proved to be the worst months, there being practically no demand for tonnage in the former month, and the abnormal scarcity of rice in August rendered voyage and time-chartering business absolutely dull.

Details of this phase of shipping business will be found below, also news of steamers bought, sold and chartered. We are indebted to Messrs. George Grimble and Company for much of the information contained below.

The year opened with a quiet week, during which little business was reported. In anticipation of a good demand for rice to Hong Kong and Canton after the Chinese New Year holidays (February 10 to 13), rice exporters in Wuhu and millers in Saigon showed keen interest in chartering tonnage to Hong Kong and Canton. This led to the engagement of a fairly large number of medium-sized steamers for early February loading, six British steamers being chartered for loading during the middle of February from Saigon to Hong Kong at an average rate of 30 cents per picul.

Norwegian and Chinese steamers also shared in this business during the earlier part of the year.

In January coal freights from Tonkin coal ports to South China were offered at rates which did not attract owners. Later in the year, as will be seen in another part of this report, the Tonkin coal freights became very welcome, as the freight market slackened in other directions.

Several time-charters were fixed in January, these including the British steamer *Borneo* and the Norwegian steamers *Kronviken* and *Restik*. The first-named was chartered for four months at \$10,000 per month and the latter two for three months at \$9,500 and \$850 per month respectively. In addition to these, the *Ulrika* and *Hydra II* obtained charters of four months and ten months respectively, the former accepting \$7,000 per month in Hong Kong currency and the latter the same figure in Straits currency.

Two ships were sold in January, these being the *Wing Hong* (British) 6,500 tons deadweight, and the French *Raymond Poincaré*, of 3,200 tons. Both were reported as sold to Japanese buyers, the prices paid being respectively Yen 115,000 and Yen 213,500.

Race for Saigon Cargoes.

Having engaged sufficient tonnage in January for February requirements, the first half of February was a period of dullness. To provide employment for a few steamers which failed to obtain rice charters from Saigon to Hong Kong, some owners had to accept trips from Haiphong to Saigon and Bangkok to Hong Kong. The competition for berth cargoes in Saigon was so keen that charterers had to sublet cargo space at 12 cents per picul in steamers which had been taken up on voyage charters at 30 cents per picul.

There was only one time-charter of three months reported for February, this being the *Kitawa* at \$6,750 per month.

The Norwegian steamer *Helikon*, built in 1918, of 3,000 d.w., was reported sold during February to local Chinese buyers at \$25,000.

Time-Charters.

In March the outstanding feature was the number of vessels fixed for time-charter, practically all available steamers being fixed up for periods varying from 45 days to 12 months. The following were reported:

Kitawa (1,600 tons) for three months at \$6,750 per month.
Hubro (2,500 tons) for six months at \$8,350 per month.
Daviken (3,500 tons) for two months at \$15,000 per month.
Halvard (2,600 tons) for three months at \$10,250 per month.
Haldis (2,600 tons) for six months at \$10,000 per month.
Torner (3,850 tons) for three months at \$10,500 per month.
Produce (1,600 tons) for 12 months at \$6,750 per month.
Hain Foo Sing (23,000 tons) for six months at \$8,500 per month.
Promise (2,050 tons) for four months at \$7,000 per month.
Lyeemoon (3,100 tons) for 12 months at \$14,000 per month.
Prosper (3,200 tons) for 12 months at \$12,000 per month.
Koromiko (4,150 tons d.w.) for six months at private terms.
Dampio (4,500 tons) for 45 days at \$385 per day.
Francis Gancier (20,000 piculs) at \$10,500 per month, owners paying coal, tonnage and light dues, and pilotage.

The refusal, on the part of Tientsin shippers to accept a 30 per cent. increase in the tariff rate on general cargoes from Canton and Hong Kong to Tientsin, and vice versa, proposed by owners of regular liners—the large number of Chinese emigrants for the Straits Settlements from Swatow, Hong Kong and Hoihow—and the impossibility of securing British liners on the customary voyage charter basis for bean cargoes in bulk from Newchwang and Dalny to Hong Kong and Canton, were the chief causes greatly favouring Norwegian and Chinese owners in fixing their steamers on time-charters to Chinese charters.

There were inquiries for charters from Saigon to Hong Kong, Saigon to Philippines, and Rangoon to Hong Kong, but inquiries could not be met, owing to the large number of ships fixed on the time-charter basis. During March the *Amra* was sold to buyers in Hong Kong on private terms. In this month Tonkin coal merchants were willing to come up in their ideas of rate, but only one fixture was reported. Several Chinese steamers, which avoided calling at Hong Kong in view of the "loadline" difficulty, were fixed to load salt cargoes from Hainan Island to Whampoa at paying rates.

An Uneventful Month.

The month of April was an uneventful one, as owing to the large number of time-charters in March, which had been taken up for trades that usually fell to voyage chartered vessels, the number of vessels available for such charters showed a decrease, and it was on this account that voyage charterers had to pay fairly high rates to fill their tonnage requirements. However, business was restricted through the scarcity of paddy in Saigon and Bangkok, and only a few British steamers were fixed for rice trips from Saigon to Hong Kong. There were numerous inquiries for ships from Saigon to Philippines, but only one fixture was reported.

In this month, coal freights from Tonkin to Swatow, Shanghai and Chinkiang were neglected, owing to the low rates that were offering and many coal trips remained to be filled.

In view of the difficulty of securing tonnage for Saigon to Philippines, rice-shippers chartered two Norwegian steamers for the business, these being *Escondido* for six months at \$9,250 and *Promise* at \$8,500 a month, both ships to be delivered in May. This took two more vessels off the market for voyage chartering business.

From Bad to Worse.

The freight market changed from bad to worse in May. Several steamers which were chartered for special trades for short periods were redelivered to owners, who in view of the poor rates ruling in all directions were unable to entertain any voyage charters. On account of the depreciation in the value of the Canton Central Bank notes, merchants were compelled to discontinue the importation of beans, rice, and other general cargoes to Canton, and sub-chartered their time-chartered steamers on trips for other business at low rates.

Unlike former months, there was keen competition for the Tonkin coal business and the Hainan Island salt freights, the new competitors being regular Saigon-Hong Kong ships and time-chartered steamers, with the result that the rate from Hong Kong to Hong Kong dropped from \$2.75 to \$2.40 per ton.

To add to shipowners' trouble, the number of passengers from Hong Kong to the Straits Settlements also decreased, and steamers specially time-chartered for the passengers trade found it difficult to secure full complements of passengers from Hong Kong, Swatow, Amoy and Hoihow for Singapore. The situation, in short, became very grave for shipowners.

Slight Improvement.

In June the only port which could give full rice cargoes to Hong Kong was Haiphong, but as activity in this direction is generally of small duration, and as the regular liners took up most of the cargo offering, only a few tramp steamers managed to get a share in the business.

Owing to the large volume of the new crop of rice in Tonkin, several steamers which could not secure full cargoes in Saigon were diverted to Haiphong to load for Hong Kong. A couple of Norwegian steamers were fixed for the Hong Kong-Bangkok-Hong Kong trade, and owing to the shortage of freight Tonkin coal freights continued strong, although in several instances charterers met with difficulty in securing small-sized steamers for Hong Kong to Canton.

Absence of Demand.

The month of July was notable for the absence of demand for tonnage to life rice, beans, sugar, salt and/or coal cargoes in any direction, with the result that owners met with great difficulty in securing cargoes for their numerous steamers.

Although the berth rate from Saigon to Hong Kong was from only 4 to 10 cents per picul, it was reported that the port cargoes of rice were accepted by time-chartered steamers free of freight, and rice meal at 6 cents per picul.

From Bangkok to Hong Kong the berth rate receded to 35 cents per picul, and cargoes were so scarce that regular liners as well as time and trip-chartered steamers arrived at Hong Kong with more than half their holds empty.

Shipment of rice from Haiphong to Hong Kong also partially ceased. The French Government in Indo-China this month increased the duty on through cargoes to Yunnan, and this was responsible for the decrease in the quantity of berth cargoes Haiphong. Steamers which were time-chartered for rice trips from Haiphong to Hong Kong were driven to seek employment in other directions.

There were three ships time-chartered in July, these being the *Botnia* (2,400 tons) at \$5,500 per month for six months, the *Fager* (1,800 tons) at \$700 per month for twelve months, and the *Borneo* (3,200 tons) at \$12,500 per month for two months.

Loss of the Lok Sun.

The British steamer *Lok Sun*, built in 1902, 1,044 registered tons, stranded on the Sanau Group and became a total wreck. She was eventually sold at auction for \$11,800 as she lay, the purchasers being local shipbreakers.

Abnormal Conditions.

August was about the worst month on record, as through the abnormal scarcity of rice, beans, salt, and passengers, Chinese time-charterers were unable to maintain their regular service of steamers between Saigon, Bangkok or Haiphong and Hong Kong, or between Newchwang and Canton. A good many steamers were compelled to fix up for the Tonkin coal trips, in spite of the ruinously low rates offered by coal charterers. Several Norwegian steamers, which were not under time-charter, but were under the direct control of owners' agents, were laid up in harbour with part of their crews paid off.

It was in August that the report was received that the Norwegian steamer *Kronprins Olav* (1,850 d.w.) was withdrawn from the coast trade.

Coal Trade or Nothing!

In September steamers lying idle in Hong Kong harbour accepted several Tonkin coal trips as a temporary measure to keep them employed. Owners, in fixing their steamers for this trade, not only had to operate at a ruinous rate, but had to concede extra return commissions and other burdensome conditions foisted upon them by several of the charterers.

There was a certain amount of rice cargo moving from Saigon to Singapore, and this afforded relief to charterers who had time-chartered steamers originally for the Saigon to Hong Kong trade.

The Norwegian steamer *Pronto* (2,900 tons) was time-chartered during September for a round voyage Hong Kong-Saigon-Java-Singapore-Amoy-Swatow-Hong Kong at \$375 Hong Kong currency per day, and the Norwegian *Dukat* (2,000 tons) was chartered for \$6,250 a month for twelve months. The Norwegian steamer *Hav* sailed in ballast for home, being withdrawn from this market.

The Chinese steamer *Hung On*, ex *John Sanderson* (4,500 tons) built in 1889, stranded at Lemko Bay (Hainan Islands) on September 6. She had a cargo of 3,200 tons of Hong Kong coal on board for Swatow.

October showed no improvement in the position of the freight market and Tonkin coal cargoes were still eagerly accepted. Such steamers as had completed their trip charters in Hong Kong in October were idle for a few days before employment could be found for them.

It was reported that Swatow coal merchants had entered into a contract with Japanese owners to lift 8,000 tons of coal monthly from Hong Kong to Swatow, from November this year to February next year, at \$2.75 per ton less 6 per cent. to charterers and 40 cents per ton for discharging.

Constant chartering from Saigon was dead, and the nominal berth rate for cargoes from Saigon to Hong Kong was only 10 cents per picul.

The rice market in Singapore also collapsed. A steamer loaded with rice destined for Singapore was consequently diverted to Hong Kong and for this Saigon-Hong Kong trip 20 cents was paid by charterers per picul on 37,000 piculs.

There were two time-charters reported, these being the *Promise* (2,000 tons) at \$5,500 per month and the *Ulrika* (2,000 tons) at \$7,250 per month. The last-named was lying idle in Hong Kong for some time before proceeding in ballast to Shanghai, where she obtained the charter.

Towards the end of the year the freight market took a slight change for the better. The favourable report concerning the rice crop in Siam, with the fixture of several small-sized Norwegian and German coasters homewards, will, it is hoped, also be the means of removing the hitherto gloomy prospects prevailing here regarding the prosperity of China coast shipping.

The last sale recorded during the year was the Norwegian steamer *Escondido* (2,400 tons) built in 1917, for \$14,500. She was sold to Chinese buyers in the North.

INCREASED IMPORTS FROM EUROPE.

EXPORTS DOWN.

Inquiries made at the offices of a British shipping company, closely connected with the movement of freight and passengers to and from Europe, revealed that there has not been any great change in 1929 either in freight or passenger business.

The figures available at the time of writing showed that imports from Europe increased by 28 per cent. this year as compared with 1928. Exports to Europe were about 15 per cent. less.

As regards passenger traffic, it appears there has been about the same number of people travelling to and from Europe in 1929 as in 1928—the figures of the company being almost identical for the two years.

The year has not been marked by any change or reduction in freight rates, the basis of freight being the same as in the preceding year. Inquiries show that the fall of the dollar has not made much difference to the volume of cargo coming from or going to Europe.

Merchants may have complained of a falling-off in business due to exchange, but the effect of this has not been felt in shipping circles operating steamers to Europe.

No very great change in or addition to tonnage is anticipated for the coming year.

The falling-off in exports is attributed in some measure to the civil strife in China, which restricts the transportation of goods from the interior. The general opinion appears to be that if China settles down, it would be possible to guess with some measure of accuracy what the amount of cargo going forward to Europe will be, but until this happy state of affairs comes about, any prediction of this character will be no more than guesswork.

JAPANESE COMPANY'S REPORT.

MORE PASSENGERS FROM EUROPE.

SOUTH AMERICAN SHIPMENTS DOWN.

The manager of a Japanese shipping company, interviewed by the *Daily Press*, stated that the general movement of cargo between Hong Kong and Europe had been very steady during the year.

In the early months of 1929 there was a fairly good quantity of silk forwarded to France and New York, via Europe, but during the second half of the year the New York rate was reduced, and New York shipments via Europe ceased entirely, silk being sent either direct to the Pacific Coast or by the all-water route via Panama.

As regards movements of general cargo, no great change has been noted for the year.

Owing to the Manchurian Railway trouble, most passengers from Europe have taken the all-sea route, and traffic from Europe accordingly has been greater this year than in the past. The Pacific passenger business was described by the company as "quite good."

There has been a very big increase of tonnage this year and the competition for cargo business has become keener. Two American lines have increased their tonnage and established new shipping routes from the Pacific Coast.

In recent years large shipments of rice have been made from Hong Kong to South America, but this year these shipments have not materialised owing to the large increase in import duty imposed by the Peruvian Government, which has had the effect of decreasing shipments of rice to South American ports.

As regards prospects for 1930, no improvement is anticipated in the Pacific trade, owing to the increased and growing tonnage, and also owing to the existence of keen competition from non-Conference lines who are able to offer large amounts of space at cheap rates.

DECLINE IN PACIFIC TRADE.

RAW SILK SHIPMENTS INCREASE.

A falling-off in the quantity of most commodities shipped from Hong Kong to the United States and Canada can be traced throughout the year 1929, the only line which has shown an increase in shipments across the Pacific from this end being raw silk.

The approximate increase in the quantity of raw silk sent from Canton to the United States is estimated at about 28,000 bales. This increase is probably due to a fall in the price of silk and reductions in freight rates during July and again in September.

Since the Wall Street debacle, however, shipments have declined, and very little new business is expected to be put through until the end of January or beginning of February.

Throughout the year merchants have complained of lack of inquiries and dull business, and since the reductions in the raw silk freight rates, the bulk of the movement has shifted from the trans-American railway route to the all-water route via Panama. This is believed to be due to the difference in the rates between the two routes, and to the large stocks of silk in New York.

Until November freight rates had remained fairly firm, but due to competition from non-Conference lines, the regular Conference Lines to Atlantic Coast and Pacific Coast Ports reduced their rates by approximately 25 per cent.

The decline in trade throughout 1929 is attributed to the establishment of new steamship lines, increased tonnage, and new building programmes, the N.Y.K. Asama Maru being the first of the new ships placed on the Pacific run.

For the present there is no indication of any revival of trade in the New Year. Conditions point, if anything, to a further decline.

Tonnage is much in excess of requirements, and probably will be very much more so during the next few months, which will make for further unsettled freight conditions in the coming year.



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HAPPY !!!

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found out the
difference a

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SLEEPLESSNESS

When you are too tired to sleep, when the after-effects of a day's exertions make rest impossible, take two Genasprin tablets before retiring to bed and in a few moments you will be fast asleep to wake in the morning fresh and fit.

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GENASPRIN

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HUMOUR: ANCIENT AND MODERN.

"I'm told tragedy is her forte."
"Oh, no. Forty is her tragedy!"

"Island," said the teacher, "is about as large as Siam."
"Island," wrote Willie afterwards, "is about as large as teacher."

"You haven't learned much in this class, have you, my lad?" said the master to the small boy.
"I admire you, sir," replied the boy, "for taking the blame in that broad-minded fashion."

"I bought a new car and gave up my piano-player as first payment."
"I didn't know they accepted piano-players as payment on new cars."
"They don't usually, but the salesman is a neighbour of mine."

"Well, sir, it was midnight," replied the officer, "and I didn't like to disturb you—but I managed it all right myself."

"Awkins," says I 'you've been a had 'un."
"Yes," says he.
"Awkins, you can't expect to go to Heaven."

"No," says he.
"Then you must go to the other place."

"Yes," oh 'Awkins, says I 'how thankful you ought to be to have anywhere to go at all." And so he died peacefully, sir."

Not so long ago bottles of gum issued by the Stationery Office bore the following instruction:—

"In ordinary use the best and most nearly immediate result is secured by using only such an amount of gum as will just uniformly moisten the surface without leaving any obvious excess to delay drying, the condition to be aimed at being that of a gummy postage-stamp just moistened as ordinarily applied to a letter."

Now some sensible economist, callously indifferent to fine writing, has replaced this piece of unexampled prose with the terse paraphrase, "Apply thinly."

"She told me she thought there was a fool in every family."
"Well, what of that?"
"I had told her a moment before that I was an only child."

Wife: "Do you realize, dear, that it was 25 years ago to-day that we became engaged?"
Absent-Minded Professor: "25 years! Bless my soul! You should have reminded me before. It's certainly time we got married."

An Irish landowner was driving a guest to his house in a gig. They entered the lodge gates, and had proceeded only a few yards up the drive when there was a report, and a bullet whizzed past their heads.

The landowner whipped up his horse, but they had only advanced a short distance when another bullet whizzed past. Just then the gig swung round a corner out of danger.

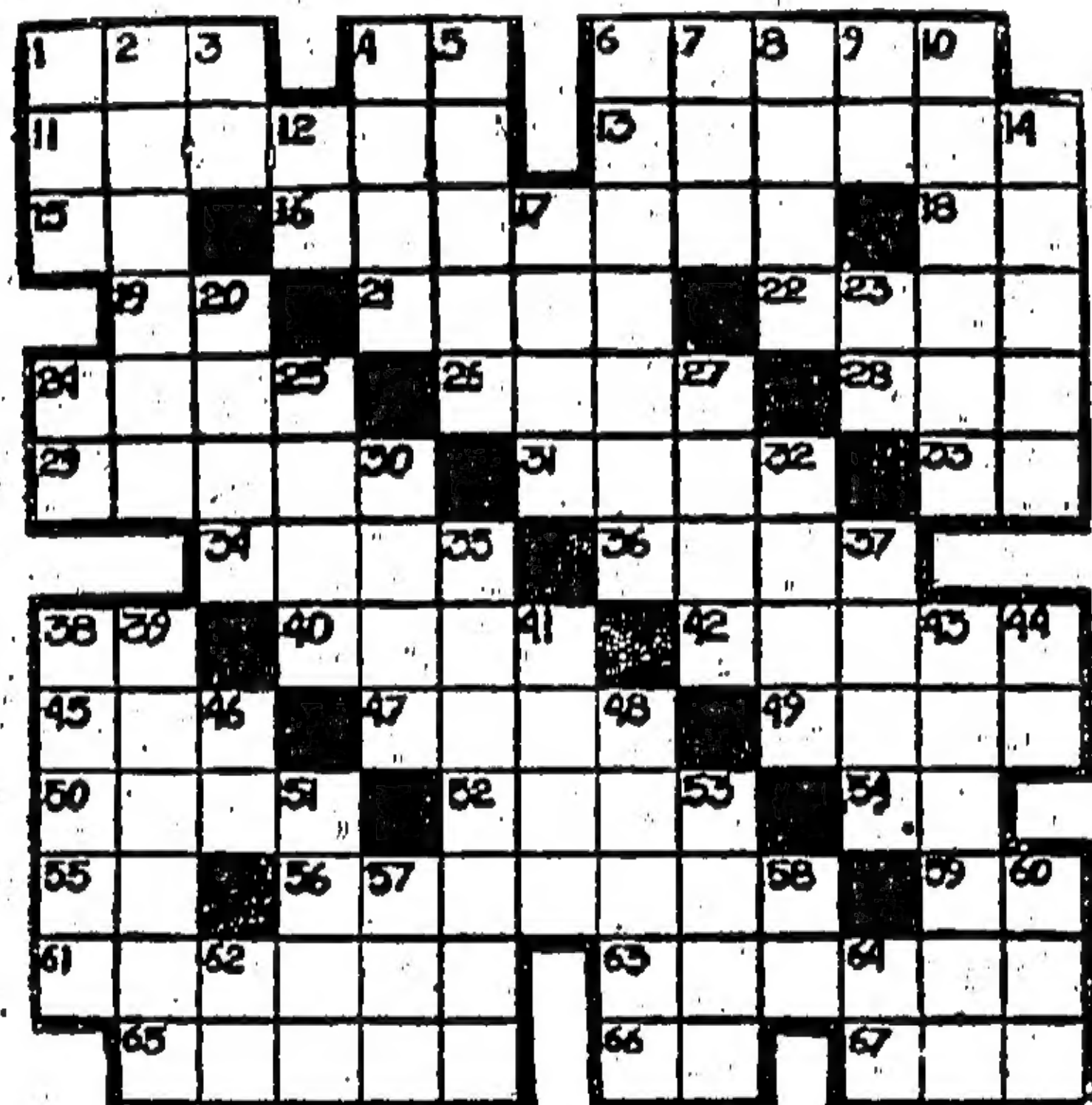
"Who was that shooting at us?" asked the nervous guest.
"Oh, only my lodge-keeper," replied the landowner, calmly.
"Then why don't you sack him?" continued the guest.
"Sack him! Good Heavens, man, he's the worst shot I've had."

The wealthy merchant, who had taken his twenty-year-old son into his business, discovered that town pleasures were proving far more attractive to the young man than business activities.

One day, when the son left the office ostensibly to keep a business appointment, the father decided to follow him. He found that his son headed straight towards a certain club, to which he belonged. After waiting a while outside, the father entered the club and found his son in the smoking-room with a bottle of whisky on his table.

"Oh, but really, Dad," said the young man, "I must have my fling."
"H'm!" said the father, eyeing the bottle of Scotch. "But it needn't be a Highland fling."

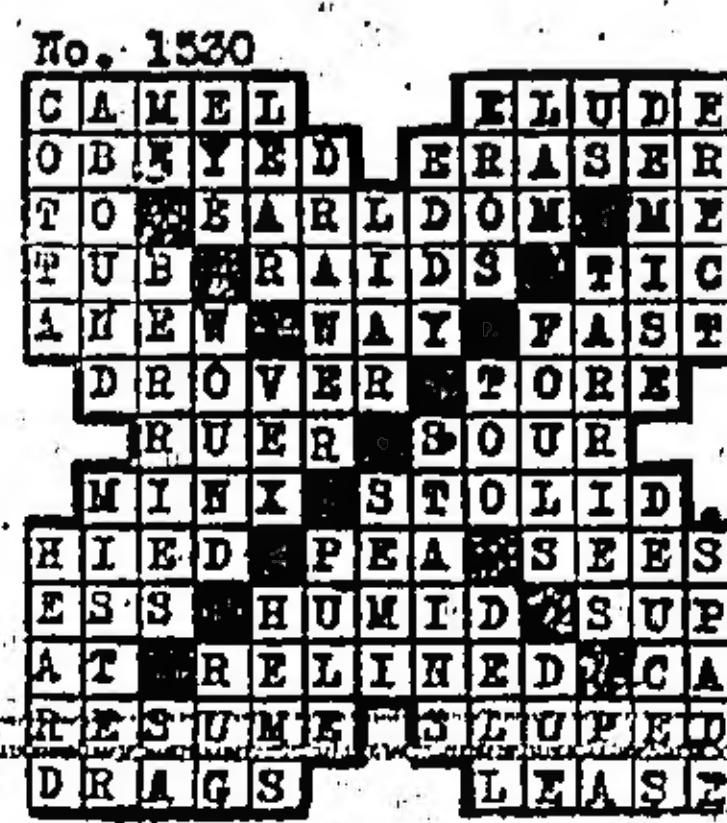
CROSSWORD PUZZLE.



- Horizontal.
- Shelter.
 - Part of infinitive.
 - Kind of coat (plural).
 - Small-iced cake.
 - Turns away.
 - Exclamation.
 - Railroad car.
 - Above.
 - Belonging to.
 - Narrow band of cloth.
 - Rise and fall of water.
 - Food.
 - Terrible.
 - Cravat.
 - Icelandic poems.
 - To seal with wax.
 - Hypothetical force.
 - Love god.
 - Trash.
 - Part of to be.
 - Hard shell fruit (plural).
 - Obtuse.
 - Grassy plain.
 - To appear.
 - Place for fodder.
 - Norwegian city.
 - Among.
 - Behold.
 - Plural pronoun.
 - Eaten.
 - Plural pronoun.
 - College honour.
 - Runaway.
 - Gave medicine to.
 - Compass point.
 - Anger.

- Vertical.
- Meadow.
 - Repeated.
 - Spanish for the.
 - To incline.
 - Mountain nymph.
 - Carved.
 - Hail.
 - Rude.
 - Comparative ending.
 - Artistic workshop.
 - While.
 - To hasten.
 - Heroic poem.
 - To lose colour.
 - Pronoun.
 - Pronoun.
 - Mountain lake.
 - Man's name.
 - French coins.
 - Mistakes.
 - Smoked.
 - Appendage.
 - Audibly.
 - Threw into disorder.
 - Prefix: one half.
 - Not so fast.
 - In this way.
 - Symbol for aluminum.
 - Sticks in mud.
 - Paddles.
 - To strike out.
 - Wet river.
 - To act.
 - Reform.
 - Depart.
 - Jumbled type.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION.



- Horizontal.
- Meadow.
 - Repeated.
 - Spanish for the.
 - To incline.
 - Mountain nymph.
 - Carved.
 - Hail.
 - Rude.
 - Comparative ending.
 - Artistic workshop.
 - While.
 - To hasten.



THE FAMILY ALBUM—WASHING THE CAR

By GLUYAS WILLIAMS



SPORT AND ATHLETICS.

THE RULES OF GOLF.

A London correspondent recently wrote the following letter to the *Times*.—In the English Ladies' Golf Championship one of the competitors was so un-English, so unladylike, or so little imbued with the true spirit of golf, that she brushed away a worm, which had accidentally strayed on to the line of her putt, instead of picking it up and handing it to her caddy, the referee, or one of the spectators. Quite rightly she was penalized for this unsporting conduct. But, to the horror of all good golfers and gentlemen, your Special Correspondent suggests that the rule on this point should be altered, and that in future a player shall have licence to brush away any worm, or series of worms, which he sees, or imagines he sees, between his ball and the hole!

What would be the inevitable result? It would be possible (and what is possible to a golfer has always been considered practicable and praiseworthy) for any of us to brush away these worms with such ferocity as to make a groove to the hole down which our ball could run, thus eliminating, particularly in the afternoon round when the co-operation of an actual worm would not be considered so necessary, the whole art of putting from our great game.

(Continued on next Column.)

AUSTRALIA AND MISS WILLS.

The Australian Lawn Tennis Association, who in the past two seasons have entertained international teams—the French in 1927 and the British in 1929—are very keen on getting an American team over this year. With this in view they have issued an invitation to Miss Helen Wills to visit Australia during the present season. She will sail in January if she accepts.

Moreover, such an alteration of the rules would have its repercussions on the greater game of Life. At present, when one of our young relations, in the course of his social or professional activities, metaphorically brushes away a worm which he should have picked up, we older men shake our heads and say reprovingly, "My boy, it isn't golf," and by these words shame him into more gentlemanly conduct. It is true that, even if the rule were altered, we should still be able to say this to him when he had metaphorically picked up a piece of ice which he ought to have brushed away, but these moral distinctions are difficult for youth to recognize. It is surely wiser, both for the sake of the game and for the sake of the moral lessons which it teaches, to leave the rules as they are.

A GREAT COMBINATION.

Since the days two decades ago when George Duncan and Charles Mayo, two striplings, came into the limelight by the almost impudent challenge to foursomes matches with members of the great triumvirate Duncan has been regarded as one of the best foursomes players in the country. It is remarkable that a golfer whose impetuosity seems to give an impression of carelessness can command such steadiness in a foursome and can face a recovery shot, when the error is not his, with delightful optimism. But that is the secret of the success of Duncan and Abe Mitchell in foursomes play. Mitchell seldom makes an error, but when he does Duncan always seems to be able to produce the brilliant shot to put things right again. That is why Duncan and Mitchell were able to beat Archie Compston and Henry Cotton in the foursome at Brockenhurst recently, although the margin was only one hole. Compston and Cotton were not at all satisfied with the result of the game, and Compston says that he intends to challenge the other two to another 36-hole foursome as soon as he can. Compston and Cotton form an excellent combination from the point of view of ability.

THE WOMAN'S CORNER.

BRUNETTES BETTER IN BUSINESS.

[By ANITA LOOS.]

"A Blonde can beat a brunette, anywhere, any time, anyhow! An employer who puts up an embargo against the golden-crested girls is out of his mind. He's deliberately turning away assets to his business."

So declares Anita Loos, of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes" fame. "People don't want women around who look as if they had mentality. They want you bland and blonde, and I don't blame them."

All of which was engendered by an innocent appearing advertisement in the "Help Wanted" columns of a newspaper.

Stenographer, under twenty-five, by education and sound business sense capable of advancement in an important West End concern; brunettes; letters only.

The author of the advertisement is head of a company which has an aversion to blondes. He says that his action in advertising for a brunet is not based on a desire to get even with one particular blonde, but on the result of a year's calm investigation and observation of blondes in business offices.

Blondes, according to this agency, are all very well at the head of the dinner table or occupying the seat beside the driver in a motor-car built for two, but they are sadly out of place in the office of a busy business man.



possess the following negative qualities:—

Temperamental—Too easily perturbed.

Independent—Have own ideas about doing things.

Keep irregular hours—Going to hairdressers during business hours.

Tactless—Not diplomatic in talking to other employees.

Bluffers—Shrewd enough to make one believe an untruth.

Inefficient—Not thorough in handling work, possibly due to an attitude of "do it quick and forget about it."

This critic admits, that the blondes and redheads are "alert when they deem it advisable to be so, and are usually intelligent, but not well balanced."

They think—at such times as they indulge in thought—with their emotions, he insists, whereas the brunet is characterized by tranquil thinking.

Gilded Girls.

Anita Loos smiled with scorn as she read the conclusions of the gentleman who doesn't prefer blondes. "The man around here," she protested, "heads with blondes," she protested.

"they belong with brunettes. They are much too definite to be classed with the gilded girls. Redheads are likely to have opinions and viewpoints and a lot of irritating things. Let him embargo redheads if he likes and save fighting. But blondes—"

"Blondes are not emotional! Where did he get that idea? Brunettes are the women who think with their emotions, and they feel a lot and suffer terribly. Blondes seldom feel anything so it's much easier and nicer to have them around. Brunettes are always scheming to get their own way, because they know that's the only chance they have of getting it—and who wants a scheming woman hanging about?"

"Temperamental? I don't agree with him. Redheads, maybe, I've never met a redhead who wasn't, but blondes don't have to bother being disagreeable."

"Independent? Yes, they are independent because they know they can always get along on their looks. They don't need to have ideas—those aren't ideas they are just their cute little ways."

"As to their going out to have the crowning glory beautified, any employer ought to be glad to pay for the time it takes to keep up an asset."

"Blondes don't have to be tactful; they can cheerfully leave all rule blondes don't quarrel. Their little system works without the necessity of fighting."

"Bluffers? I should think a bluffer would be a godsend to a business man. That's a recommendation, not a criticism."

"Inefficient? A blonde may not be efficient, but she'll get there. Her methods work every time."

QUEEN'S
HIS MASTER'S VOICE
THE BLACK WATCH
WILLIAM FOX PRESENTS
VICTOR M. MAGNIN
MYRA LOY DAVID ROLLINS
ROY D'ARCY
Directed by JOHN FORD
Story by Talbot Mundy
ALL TALKING
FOX MOVIE TONE FEATURE
TO-DAY
At 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.20.

WORLD
WARNER BROS. PRESENTS
Syd Chaplin
in
The FORTUNE HUNTER
with HELENE COSTELLO
Based upon the play of Winchell Smith
Directed by CHARLES F. BRONKHORST
TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
At 2.30, 5.15, 7.15 & 9.20.

STAR
WILLIAM FOX PRESENTS
MASKED EMOTIONS
GEORGE O'BRIEN
NORA LANE
FARRELL MACDONALD
KEN AMET WILLIAM
DAVID BUTLER
KENNETH HAYES
Mile. AMETA
TO-DAY
TO THURSDAY
AT
5.30 & 9.20.

THERE'S A
LONG LONG TRAIL
OF
Bugs, Fleas,
Flies, Beetles,
Mosquitoes,
etc.,
all killed by
KEATING'S
BRITISH MADE

STATE OF MARRIAGE LAWS.
BRITISH WIVES OF
FOREIGNERS.

A lecture on the subject of marriage, divorce, and the guardianship of children, was given by Mrs. E. M. Hubback, M.A., to the women's group of the Fabian Society at the Caxton Hall, Westminster, last month.

Mrs. Hubback, in a comprehensive survey of the subject, dealt with husbands and wives, who can marry, domicile, liability for civil wrongs, maintenance of wives when husbands and wives are living together and separately, grounds for separation and divorce, and the maintenance custody and guardianship of children. She stressed the inequalities of the law as relating to husbands and wives, but observed that since 1923 many of the inequalities so far as wives were concerned had been done away with.

On the ground of separation Mrs. Hubback said that women could be granted an order if the husband were a drunkard, persistently cruel or suffered from a certain disease, or tried to force her to lead a certain life, whereas a man could only get a separation on two grounds—if his wife was an habitual drunkard or was cruel to his children.

It was, however, much easier for a man to rid himself of his wife by resorting to any one of the reasons stated, for the simple reason that most wives were wholly dependent upon their husbands for their maintenance.

On the question of nationality the lecturer pointed out that women were under a disadvantage. If a British woman married a foreigner she took her husband's nationality, and when he died could only again become a naturalised British subject on application.

That, said Mrs. Hubback, was one of the matters which would be dealt with by the Imperial Conference in 1930, and also by the legal committee of the League of Nations. It was contended by many that women should be allowed to retain or change their nationality in the same manner as men.

Mrs. Hubback declared herself against the idea of separate income tax for husbands and wives where the wife had an income. The majority of wives had not an income of her own in the first place, and if it were decided to have separate assessments both husband and wife would be worse off.

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4,000 CHILDREN TO VISIT GERMANY.

THE FRIENDSHIP ADVENTURES.

Three of Germany's most beautiful castles will be thrown open to visiting school-children by the German Government. They are Castle Rheinfels, the largest castle on the Rhine; Schloss Monaise, on the banks of the Moselle, and the Pont Tor, the great city gate at Aix-la-Chapelle. This has been arranged by Mrs. Ruth Knowles, the skipper of the Friend Ship, anchored at Charing Cross pier.

"I am amazed at the extraordinary generosity of the German people in giving us these beautiful old castles," she told a reporter. "It shows more than anything else the keen desire the Germans have to build up a real friendship between Germany and England. They realise the importance of getting the young people of the two countries together and thus building up a lasting friendship."

"We started on what we called these 'land cruises' last year, taking 150 children to Germany and Belgium. Apparently the Germans were so impressed by the behaviour of our boys and girls that when I approached them on the subject of accommodation for this year they just offered me anything I liked. Payments are to be given in our honour depicting incidents in the history of the two countries when they were the best of friends. Through this arrangement we shall be able to take 4,000 students this year instead of 150, at a cost of only £2 10s. a week each, so that all the boys and girls will be able to spend a fortnight travelling 800 miles by private cars (also given to us) all over Germany."

"The whole thing aims at a jolly adventure. There is no talking or preaching, for we believe more in jollity and fun to bring the nations together. About 500 schools from all over the world, including the most southerly school known in Chile, and others from unfriendly places on the map have been asked to join this honourable company of friendly adventurers, which party in my own yacht."

POWERS OF SHIPS' CAPTAINS.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS RAISED AT MARINE COURT.

NOMINAL FINES IMPOSED.

Several important questions regarding the powers of a ship's captain to dismiss members of his crew for misconduct, and to take on substitutes, were raised yesterday, when the Hon. Comdr. G. F. Hole, R.N. (retired) presiding at the Marine Court, heard four summonses against Captain Charles Alexandre, now of the Yat Shing and formerly of the Kwai Sang.

The summonses against defendant were as follows:—For unlawfully leaving behind in the Colony, Harold Vittel King, a seaman of the s.s. Kwai Sang, before completion of the last voyage; discharging King without the sanction of the Harbour Master and without due provision for his maintenance; and that he unlawfully shipped Albert Dunn, a seaman, for duty on board the s.s. Kwai Sang, without the sanction of the Harbour Master and elsewhere than at the Mercantile Marine Office.

Mr. L. R. Andrews prosecuted and Mr. E. Davidson defended.

PLIGHT OF DISMISSED ENGINEER.

At the opening of the proceedings Mr. Andrews said he wished to put in a further charge of unlawfully carrying Albert Dunn to sea, without entering an agreement with him, in accordance with the Ordinance, on July 24, 1929.

In support of this charge Mr. G. W. Coysh, Deputy Shipping Master, who had already given evidence at a previous hearing, was recalled and said that the Yat Shing left Hong Kong at 1.34 p.m. on July 24. The log of the ship contained an entry to the fact that Albert Dunn was signed on at sea at 4.30 p.m. that same day.

Witness was closely examined by Mr. Davidson, and, in his replies, admitted having made several inaccurate statements when the case was first heard.

Mr. Davidson: Did you in September last, arrange for the employment of Mr. King on one of the A.P.C. vessels?—No. I never arranged anything in September.

Have you arranged anything for Mr. King?—At a later period, but I can't remember the date, I arranged to ship him in place of a man who was convicted in December. He was signed on as third engineer on an A.P.C. tanker on December 17.

Are you aware that in August Mr. King was staying at the Kowloon Hotel at his own charge?—I made no enquiries outside that which was official.

But are you aware of it?—I was given that impression.

And he afterwards went to the Y.M.C.A.?—Yes.

And stopped there practically the whole of the time?—Yes.

When he left the Y.M.C.A. had you already arranged his ship?—I did not arrange anything before he left. That was done at the very last moment.

When he left his ship in July, he first became chargeable to the Colony, in December, and that for three days only?—He never became chargeable to the Colony at all.

But you told us at the last hearing that these proceedings were taken because he became chargeable?—I regret that my first statement was incorrect.

A Mistake and Rectification.

Mr. Coysh said a case of desertion was reported to him on October 18 and about a week later, when he was going through the log book of the Kwai Sang, he saw the record of the King incident, but he thought it occurred in Shanghai, as it was endorsed with the Consular stamp.

Then he saw his mistake and immediately communicated with the Acting Harbour Master and later, he, together with Capt. Alexandre (who was in the Harbour Office at the time) the Marine Superintendent and his assistant, had a conference about the whole affair and the Marine Superintendent Engineer of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. was informed.

Mr. Davidson: Was a letter sent to the owners of the ship on October 23 in which a claim was made from them for maintenance and repatriation?—The Harbour Office received a letter from the owners in which they denied responsibility.

If the Company had agreed to pay whatever was payable to this man, these proceedings would never have been instituted?—The question was one on which I could make no decision until Commander Hole came back.

Not Authority.

Mr. Davidson: If you had noticed the offence in the first instance, would you have reported it to the Harbour Master?—Most certainly I would.

The discharge of King and the engagement of Dunn are both entered in the official log book?—Yes.

Both men signed articles?—Yes.

And the official log book was taken to the authorities by Capt. Alexandre at the first opportunity?—No. The ship called at Swatow for one day. He did not take the first opportunity of informing the authorities.

Mr. Andrews (re-examining): The last time you said in cross-examination that the master could have brought Mr. King to the Mercantile Shipping Office with reference

to the charges?—The Shipping Office was open from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. and King was discharged at 11.10 a.m. In that case Capt. Alexandre had ample opportunity of phoning the Office. A telephone message asking the Harbour Master's permission for the ship to leave or to sign on that man would have settled the whole question.

You stated last time that it was not necessary to prosecute unless a complaint was made that the man was destitute?—That is not correct. I meant to say that I should have to see the man personally before action was taken.

You had no knowledge of the case until the police made a complaint on October 18?—No.

You said that under certain circumstances, the master had the right to sign on a substitute?—The usual procedure is to ring up the Harbour Master.

How long have you been Deputy Shipping Master here?—Ten years.

You consider that these matters should be common knowledge to masters of ships?—Yes.

That closed the case for the prosecution.

Capt. Alexandre's Evidence.

Capt. Alexandre, giving evidence, said that on July 28 he discharged Mr. King for being drunk. He reported the matter to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Mr. King accepted the decision without protest.

The ship was due to sail at noon on that day and he signed on Mr. Dunn after the ship had been under way for a few hours, his intention being to report the matter to the British Consul at Shanghai. Witness thought if he did that and had his log signed and stamped by the British Consul at that port, that would relieve him of all responsibility. He had no time to take either man to the Shipping Office.

Submission for Defence.

Mr. Davidson, for defendant, said that the proceedings should never have been brought. If Capt. Alexandre had committed a technical offence in discharging King, he was certainly within his rights in signing on Dunn.

Defendant was charged with wilfully and wrongfully leaving a seaman behind, or, in other words, forcibly putting a man ashore, and the penalty for an offence of that nature was a fine not exceeding \$250 or six months' imprisonment.

No one supposed the defendant would be imprisoned, but it was most unfair to Capt. Alexandre to be prosecuted under such a charge.

The second charge was a most important one, and affected all ships in the Colony and particularly British ships. If that section of the Ordinance was made applicable then no ship registered in Hong Kong could discharge any member of the crew unless due provisions were made for their maintenance. He was sure that the Ordinance was never meant to be so construed. A ship must have been made when the Ordinance was prepared, and it was very important that that point should be settled.

Mr. Davidson submitted that masters of vessels were not compelled to sign off a seaman in the Mercantile Shipping Office for misconduct, but it would be necessary to do so when the articles had run out. The language of that section was wide enough to provide for that and if it was according to what he interpreted that particular section in the Ordinance to mean, it would be time for the Legislature to alter it and to bring it in line with the law at home. It would cause grave inconvenience to shipping owners and masters if that section were to apply. Imagine the case of the C.P.R. liner having to sail at night, and some drunken sailor not turning up. Would the ship have to delay departure?

Severe criticism was made by Mr. Davidson of the custom of making masters leave their logs and articles at the Shipping Office after each trip. This was only a practice and not enforced by law. The practice should cease, because a master left his log and articles behind, thinking that everything was all right, and then six months later found himself charged with an alleged offence committed six months ago.

On the last charge, he would im-

A WIFE'S DEBTS.

PLEGDED HER FATHER-IN-LAW'S CREDIT.

Before the Puisse Judge in the Summary Court yesterday morning, Mr. Woo Pak Fuk, eldest son of Mr. Woo Hay Tong, compradore to Messrs. Butterfield and Swire, was sued by the Shanghai Co., Ltd., of 24, Des Voeux Road Central, for \$174.60 due for piece goods sold and delivered to his wife on December 10 and December 15, 1929.

Mr. E. S. C. Brooks was for the plaintiff firm, and Mr. F. E. Nash for the defendant.

A Deliberate Lie?

Evidence was given by the assistant manager and salesman of the plaintiff firm, who alleged that defendant came with his wife to make the purchases.

Mr. Nash said the defence was that defendant had forbidden his wife to obtain credit. The story of defendant visiting the shop with his wife was a deliberate lie.

Witness in cross-examination said he had known defendant for about four years. He did not know that defendant filed a debtors' petition in bankruptcy on November 14, 1929.

Mr. Nash: Did you know that the petition was withdrawn on November 29, because his mother came forward and paid the wife's debts?—I did not know.

Do you mean to suggest that while this bankruptcy was on defendant was contracting debts at your shop?—He and his wife came and obtained the goods.

I put it to you it is a deliberate lie on your part that defendant was with his wife?—No.

The Father's Credit.

I put it to you that you gave this lady credit because she was daughter-in-law of Mr. Woo Hay Tong?—No.

You went to Mr. Woo Hay Tong to collect this money?—I did not.

And it was at his office that Mr. Woo Hay Tong pointed out his son to you, the first time you had seen him?—I have known him for a long time.

His Lordship said: Pak Fuk told you to put it into Woo Hay Tong's account?—Yes.

And you did so?—Yes.

So that you never gave any credit to Pak Fuk at all?—At the time when the goods were ordered I gave him credit.

Why did you not open a special account for him?—Because he told me to put it in to the same account as his father and promised to let me have the money a few days later.

In his evidence defendant stated that he was the eldest son of Mr. Woo Hay Tong whom he had been assisting since 1924. His father paid certain of his expenses.

His Lordship: I think it is true to say that this witness is supported by his father.

Mr. Nash: Yes, I think so.

Continuing, defendant said that he was now employed by Messrs. Butterfield and Swire at a salary of \$100 per month, out of which he gave his wife \$65 a month for food only. In November, 1929, he was pressed by creditors, and filed a petition in bankruptcy. His mother paid off the debts. Defendant added that the debts were incurred by his wife. Both before and after the bankruptcy he forbade his wife to pledge his credit.

Defendant denied that he had ever been in plaintiff's shop.

Judgment for Defendant.

His Lordship held it was clear that the only credit pledged and the only credit given was given in respect of defendant's father. Judgment would be given for defendant with costs.

Mr. Andrews, in reply, said that the prosecution was undertaken under laws designed to protect seamen. He asked His Worship to see that this protection was made effective.

The Decision.

The Magistrate in giving his decision said that in the first charge, King was signed off by mutual consent in that he had failed to lodge any protest within seven days, and he could not hold the master guilty.

In the second charge as to providing maintenance, he held that a "Colonial Ship" differed from a British ship and as the Kwai Sang was a "colonial ship" that section did not apply. He found defendant not guilty on this charge. It was an important fact that King was signed on and discharged in Hong Kong.

On the third charge, he found defendant guilty, but taking all the circumstances into consideration he would impose a nominal fine of \$5.

On the fourth charge, he found that the man Dunn was not signed on in Hong Kong. He was first taken to sea, and after a few hours out, he was signed on the articles. Therefore, the charge must also fail.

On the last charge, he would im-

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE.

SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES \$27,000.

ADJUSTMENTS DUE TO EXCHANGE.

Supplementary estimates to a total of \$27,250 were passed yesterday at a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Legislative Council.

The Principal Items.

Among the principal items were the following:—

The Prisons Department asked for \$2,500. It was stated that a hot food chamber installed in April, 1929, has consumed extra gas and there has also been increased consumption of gas for cooking prisoners' food owing to increased prison population.

The Medical Department asked for \$1,500. The larger number of patients and more operations in the various hospitals have increased the use of clothing, bedding, towels, etc. The expenditure for washing has therefore been increased and a supplementary vote for this sum is therefore asked for.

Public Works, Extraordinary:—General Works, Miscellaneous, Purchase of Pier at Tsun Wan, \$2,500.

It is considered desirable that the pier at Tsun Wan which is the property of the Tsun Wan community should be taken over by Government and general public. The pier is valued at \$2,500, the amount asked for.

Public Works, Recurrent:—Hong Kong, Lighting, Electric Lighting, City, Hill District and Shaubikwan, \$7,000.

This vote is required to meet the increased cost (\$6,369.79) of lighting the public highways under the new electric lighting agreement, the rates of which operate as from January 1, 1929, and for the temporary lighting of certain Praya East roads. The new rates were not fixed when the 1929 Estimates were drawn up.

Public Works, Recurrent:—Kowloon Water Works, Maintenance of Water Works, to meet expenditure to the end of the year \$5,000.

The supplementary vote is requested to meet necessary expenditure to the end of the year. This vote has been gradually increased from \$50,000 in 1924 to \$40,000 in 1929 to keep pace with the rapid expansion of metered service and main mileage in Kowloon; but the additional \$5,000 for 1929 has not proved sufficient. The water shortage also caused additional expenditure.

Medical Department:—Expenses of Courses of Study and attendance on Medical Congress, \$2,600 (Provision made in Estimates \$5,000). The excess over this vote is due to more officers availing themselves of the privilege than was at first expected.

Police Force:—Light and Electric Fans, \$1,000. The provision made in Estimates was \$30,000. The excess is due to additional officers using gas for cooking purposes causing an unestimated excess of \$1,024.

Those Present.

The attendance at the meeting was as follows:—Hon. Mr. W. T. Southern, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary), chairman, Hon. Mr. C. H. Messer, O.B.E. (Colonial Treasurer), Hon. Mr. H. T. Creasy, C.B.E. (Director of Public Works), Hon. Sir Shou-sun Chow, Hon. Dr. R. H. Kotewall, C.M.G., J.L.D., Hon. Mr. A. C. Hynes, Hon. Mr. J. Owen Hughes, Hon. Mr. W. E. L. Shenton, Hon. Mr. J. P. Braga, Hon. Dr. S. W. Tso, O.B.E., J.L.D., Mr. E. I. Wynne-Jones (Deputy Clerk of Councils).

Exchange and Increased Prices.

The Chairman: These items have already been circulated and are, I think, very fully explained. I do not know whether there are any points anyone would like to raise. I do not, may I take it that the items are approved?

Mr. Braga: Item 123—It is more cut of curiosity than criticism that I ask this question. What is meant by "the property of the Tsun Wan community" mentioned therein?

The Chairman: The pier was built by the Kaifong for ferry service.

Mr. Creasy: It is very desirable that private piers should be purchased by Government to prevent prohibitive ferry fares.

The Chairman: Gentlemen, I take it that these items are approved. There are two or three items which Heads of Departments did not get up in time to put before the Committee. As we have to pass payment before the end of the year, I would like to put them before you.

The Head of the Prisons Department has a vote of \$17,000 for clothing but, owing to the fact that the drill ordered from the Crown Agents had to be paid for at a higher price than anticipated and, in addition, there was a drop in exchange, he anticipates that when

the clothing is received his vote may be exceeded by a sum of not more than \$1,000.

Mr. Creasy: There are three electrical items in the Public Works Department, Sir. One is a high speed transmission gear on which there is an excess of \$30 on an estimated cost of \$2,640, for which we have provision. Another one is due chiefly to lower exchange. The estimated cost is \$5,160 for duplication of a storage battery at Cape D'Aguilar and the bill is \$210 more than the original.

One other item is for a 1 kilowatt transmitter, close range. It cost more than Mr. King estimated. He estimated \$5,000 and it cost \$5,750, partly due to the exchange again.

All votes were then formally

OLD CALENDAR TO STAY.

CHINESE NEW YEAR IN HONG KONG.

JANUARY 1 NOT TO BE OBSERVED.

A suggestion to introduce the Gregorian calendar into Chinese business circles in Hong Kong formed the subject of an interesting discussion at the monthly meeting of the Chinese Chamber of Commerce yesterday.

The Chamber had some time ago notified commercial firms that they were going to adopt the Gregorian calendar, and an insertion to that effect was published in one of the Chinese newspapers.

Mr. Ho Yu asked if the Chamber were going to celebrate New Year on Wednesday, and whether it would be giving its usual New Year party on January 1.

The Chairman admitted that they had not thought of doing so, and pointed out that it was too late in the day to change their plans. Until the Gregorian calendar was more generally accepted in Canton, and the interior, its adoption in Hong Kong would not be popular. The hope was expressed that next year or the year after China would come into line in this respect with the rest of the world.

VILLAGERS' COMPLAINT.

Villagers of the Saikung and other districts in the New Territories have written to the Chamber pointing out that they had always obtained their firewood from the hillsides near their villages, and that the authorities have now forbidden them to cut any trees. The Chamber decided to bring this matter to the notice of the Chinese members of the Legislative Council.

Other matters discussed were in the main complaints from various shopkeepers and dealers.

ALICE MEMORIAL AND AFFILIATED HOSPITALS.

RECENT DONATIONS.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals per Mr. T. N. Chau.

A sum of \$100 from each of the following gentlemen:—Hon. Sir Shou-sun Chow, Hon. Dr. R. H. Kotewall, Hon. Dr. S. W. Tso, Mr. Li Yau Tsun, Mr. T. N. Chau, Mr. J. M. Wong, Mr. M. K. Co, Mr. Lo Chung Kue, Mr. Chan Siu Hing, Mr. Au Lim Chuen, Mr. Au Siu Cho, Mr. Tang Chi Ngong, Messrs. Wo Fat Shing, Mr. Li Hoi Tung, Mr. Wong Yau Tong, Mr. Tang Ping Shan, Mr. Kwok Siu Lau, Mr. P. K. Kwok, Mr. Wong Ping Shun, Mr. Leung Yan To, Mr. Chao Po Sien, Mr. Chan Lim Pak, Mr. Ho Wai Sang, Mr. Ng Wah, Mr. Chan Tin Song, The late Mr. Ip Loo Siu's estate, The late Mr. Chan Siu Kip's estate, Mr. Lau Sing Chong, Mr. Ma Tui Chiu, Mr. Chan Shu Ming, Mr. Wong Yu Tung, Mr. Li Sing Kui, Mr. Leung Sum Yu, Mr. Mak Siu Cho, Mr. Sum Pak Ming, Mr. Cheung Sum Woo, Mr. Au Shun Cho, Mr. Chan Pik Chuen, Mr. Tang Man Tin, Mr. Tang Man Chiu, Mrs. Tang Woo Shi, Mr. Lo Chap Son, Mr. Ip Wing Cho, Mr. Tang Shiu Kin, Mr. Li Yik Mui.

A sum of \$50 from each of the following gentlemen:—Mr. Fung Heung Chun, Mr. Wong Kan Hing, Mr. Au Long Hin, Mr. Chan Foon Tin, Mr. Ng Yu Wan, Mr. Leung Ying Kuen, Mr. Chiu Mui Chow, Mr. Yeung Tso Wing, Mr. Chan Yu Tin, Mr. Li Kit Cho, Mr. Choy Yat Ho, Mr. Choy Wai Yau, Mr. Yu Cheuk Sang, Messrs. Ah Ying & Co., Ltd., Mr. Soo Sau Nam, Mr. Ma Chi Lung.

A sum of \$25 from each of the following gentlemen:—Mr. Tong Yat Chun, Mr. Wong Tak Kwong, Mr. Mok Kon Sang, Mr. Kwan Yick Chi.

Total \$5,400.

the clothing is received his vote may be exceeded by a sum of not more than \$1,000.

Mr. Creasy: There are three electrical items in the Public Works Department, Sir. One is a high speed transmission gear on which there is an excess of \$30 on an estimated cost of \$2,640, for which we have provision. Another one is due chiefly to lower exchange. The estimated cost is \$5,160 for duplication of a storage battery at Cape D'Aguilar and the bill is \$210 more than the original.

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All votes were then formally

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INTRODUCING—FALL IN AND FOLLOW ME—ANOTHER LITTLE DRINK—DOWN AT THE OLD BULL AND BUSH I DO LIKE TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE—TIPPERARY HELLO, WHO'S YOUR LADY FRIEND—A WEE DROCK & DOCK IF YOU WERE THE ONLY GIRL—MADAMONELLE FROM ARMENTIERES

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NOTICE.

ON WEDNESDAY, the 1st JANUARY, 1930, All Departments will be CLOSED.

ON THIS DAY.

THE HONG KONG DISPENSARY, Dispensing Department, will be OPEN for Dispensing Prescriptions from 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. and from 6 P.M. to 7.30 P.M.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED, Hong Kong, 30th Dec., 1929. [8892]

NOTICE.

MR. O. HECHTEL and Mr. L. MUHLER have been authorized by me to SIGN MY Firm as from 1st JANUARY, 1930.

The Former for HONG KONG, the Latter for CANTON and SWATOW. G. E. HUYGEN, [8890]

CENTRAL BRITISH SCHOOL.

SCHOOL will RE-OPEN on MONDAY, 5th JANUARY, 1930. An Entrance Examination will be held at the School on FRIDAY, 4th JANUARY, at 9.30 A.M. when all New Pupils are requested to attend. [8893]

KEEP THAT RESOLUTION! ATTEND THE NEW TERRITORIES AGRICULTURAL SHOW

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ADMISSION: 20 CENTS Only! Gates Open 11 A.M.

Official Opening by H.E. Sir CECIL CLEMENTI, K.C.M.G. At 2.30 P.M. JANUARY 4th.

Special Rail Facilities—Reduced Fares. Official Handbook now on sale at All Bookstalls—Price 10 Cents. [8895]

BANK HOLIDAY.

In accordance with Ordinance No. 1912, the EXCHANGE will be CLOSED for the TRANSACTION OF PUBLIC BUSINESS on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1st 1930 (NEW YEAR'S DAY). [8799]

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Undersigned, now acting as HARRY O. ODELL & Co., as from JANUARY 1st, 1930, under the Name and Style of L. ELL & Co., 4th Floor, Exchange Building. L. WEILL, [8778]

HONG KONG DEVELOPMENT BUILDING & SAVINGS SOCIETY, LTD. (In Liquidation).

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that LEGAL PROCEEDINGS will be instituted Without Further Notice against CONTRIBUTORIES whose Calls remain Unpaid on the 31st DECEMBER, 1929.

WILKINSON & GRIST, Solicitors for the Liquidators, Hong Kong, 27th Dec., 1929. [7895]

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BY Mutual Consent, We Cease to Represent Messrs. HUNTLEY & PALMER'S After DECEMBER 31st, 1929. NESTLE & ANGLO-SWISS CONDENSED MILK Co., Hong Kong & South China Branches.

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WE HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that, by Mutual Consent, Messrs. NESTLE & ANGLO-SWISS CONDENSED MILK Co., HONG KONG AND SOUTH CHINA BRANCHES, Will No Longer Represent Us After the 31st DECEMBER, 1929. HUNTLEY & PALMER'S, LTD., READING AND LONDON.

HUNTLEY & PALMER'S BISCUITS.

WE HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that, by Mutual Consent, Messrs. DODWELL & Co. to Represent Us From the 1st JANUARY, 1930, in HONG KONG, SWATOW, AMOY, FOCHOW and SOUTH CHINA. HUNTLEY & PALMER'S, LTD., READING AND LONDON.

HUNTLEY & PALMER'S BISCUITS.

WE have pleasure in Announcing that We have been Appointed, as from JANUARY 1st, 1930,

SOLE REPRESENTATIVES OF Messrs. HUNTLEY & PALMER'S, LTD., READING AND LONDON. For HONG KONG, SWATOW, AMOY, FOCHOW and SOUTH CHINA.

Orders will be Accepted by Us at Manufacturers' Prices and Discounts. DODWELL & CO., LTD., HONG KONG, CANTON and FOCHOW. [8781]

ST. GEORGE'S BALL.

6th JANUARY, 1930. MEMBERS are Requested to Send in their Applications for Tickets to the BALL As Soon As Possible to Mr. S. T. BUTLIN, Hon. Secretary, c/o LINSTEAD & DAVIS. [8784]

NOTICE.

HUMPHREYS ESTATE AND FINANCE CO., LTD.

IN order to facilitate the Investigation with regard to A Number of Share Certificates which have been fraudulently obtained from the Company, All Holders of Share Certificates of the Company are requested to send in, Full Particulars of their Holdings, Number of Certificates, Name of Owner, the Actual Distinguishing Numbers of the Shares covered by the Certificate, the Date of Issue of such Certificates and their Folio Numbers, to the GENERAL MANAGERS As Soon As Possible.

By Order of the Board, JOHN D. HUMPHREYS & SON, General Managers. [8738]

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONG KONG.

PROBATE JURISDICTION.

IN the Goods of DZHEN DZOOONG TSI, alias TSIN SHU TIN, Late of SHANGHAI and NINGPO in the REPUBLIC OF CHINA, DECEASED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court has, by virtue of the Provisions of Section 58 of Ordinance No. 2 of 1897, made An Order Limiting the Time for Creditors and Debtors to send in their Claims against the above Estate to THIRTY DAYS. All Creditors and Debtors are accordingly hereby required to send their Claims to the Undersigned on or before That Date.

DEACONS, Solicitors for the Administrator, 1, Des Vaux Road Central, Hong Kong. [8783]

TO LET.

OFFICE (2 Rooms) TO BE LET From 1st JANUARY, 1930, in HONG KONG CLUB (ANNEX). Apply—SECRETARY, HONG KONG CLUB. [8753]

THE TIME FOR BLANKETS

IS HERE, BUT WHAT SHALL BE DONE FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT AFFORD THEM?

MEMBERS of the Committee attend at the Society's Room, CITY HALL, EVERY MONDAY and THURSDAY, at 10.30 to receive GIFTS of BLANKETS, Part-worn Clothing, etc.

HONG KONG BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, (ESTD. 1889). [8348]

SERVICE TO READERS.

THE HONG KONG DAILY PRESS, LTD., and the HONG KONG WEEKLY PRESS, through their London Office, at 21, BRIDE LANE, FLEET STREET, E.C. 4, are prepared to give Subscribers and Visitors advice regarding accommodation available, motoring facilities, suitable shopping centres, etc.

If, when at home, they will call or telephone to the above address, they will receive the utmost assistance and the latest available information on all subjects of enquiry will be placed at their disposal.

WEATHER REPORT.

Yesterday's weather report, forecast and remarks, issued by the Royal Observatory at 5 p.m., stated:—

The anticyclone remains over China and has increased slightly in intensity. Fresh monsoon will prevail along the S.E. coast of China and over the N. China Sea. Local Forecast:—N.E. winds, fresh, cloudy, with drizzle or mist, probably improving later.

DEATH.

O'DELL.—On December 30, at the Matilda Hospital, ADA LILIAN O'DELL. [8894]

Editorial and Business Offices: 11, Ice House Street. Tel. Central 12. Night Editor (Wanchai Office): Tel. Central 451. London Office: 31, Bride Lane, Fleet Street, E.C. 4.

The Daily Press.

HONG KONG, DECEMBER 31, 1929.

HONG KONG TRADE IN 1929.

THE year now almost at an end has not been a good one for the majority of business-men in this Colony. There are a fortunate few who have done well during the twelve months, but most of these have profited probably more by luck than judgment. Of the majority of merchants it can be said that if they close their books to-night with a credit balance no less than that carried forward on December 31 last, they have done well on the year's working. It has been a very stormy twelve months, with rather more than the average amount of anxiety for the business-man. That there have been no really serious shipwrecks during the heavy weather which has been experienced is a tribute to the skill of the navigators and the stability of their craft.

Competition in all lines of business has been keen, increasingly so, and normal opportunities for business have been seriously interfered with by the unrest in various parts of the Republic. As the great clearing-house for trade in South China, both import and export, Hong Kong is always immediately affected by favourable or adverse conditions existing in and about Canton. Twice during the year business in that great commercial centre has been completely paralysed in consequence of military operations directed against the city. The end of the year sees the threatened danger again averted, but no man can say for how long the patched-up peace will last. In the North, too, there has been continual trouble, and disturbed conditions on the Yangtze—although primarily affecting Shanghai—also have a reaction upon business in the South, including Hong Kong.

In addition to the disturbing effect upon import and export trade of civil war in China, merchants in Hong Kong have had another serious anxiety to face peculiarly their own—the fall in the value of the dollar. At the beginning of the year, the dollar was worth two shillings; at the end it is worth only 1s. 7d. For the exporter, this drop in exchange may prove very useful at times in meeting keen competition; for the importer it has meant yet another obstacle to business, especially in those lines where competition is so fierce that prices have to be cut very fine to secure business. With the dollar at 2s. an order for £1,000 worth of goods costs the Chinese purchaser \$10,000, but at the rate of exchange prevailing as the year comes to an end, the same amount of goods would cost \$12,307, an increase of about 20 per cent. No wonder, then, that buyers are holding off, and show no disposition to place orders for delivery six months ahead. In some lines stocks in the hands of Chinese wholesale dealers have fallen very low, but no large contracts have been placed to make good the deficiency, nor will they be booked until the general outlook—both domestic and foreign—has

greatly improved. The uncertainty at home regarding the fortunes of war, and abroad regarding fluctuations of exchange, have made the always cautious Chinese buyer still more careful of his commitments, and thus business is limited to the supplying of immediate requirements only. There appears to be growing dissatisfaction among business-men with the monetary position in the Colony. Three months ago steps were taken by the note-issuing banks to bring the dollar more in line with the tael, but these measures do not seem to have proved very effective, though causing a good deal of minor irritation and annoyance in the attempt.

So far from the position being stabilised, the end of the year sees still more uncertainty existing about the future of the dollar—some people believing its value will go down to 1s. 6d. within the next few weeks. These persistent doubts about exchange fluctuations has made it impossible to look forward to business, and will continue to have a bearish influence upon trade. In some quarters it is suggested that the Government should take over the issuance and control of currency from the three banks now discharging those duties. Others again suggest a gold basis for the Hong Kong dollar—which seems like counsel of perfection, seeing that China's currency is based on silver, and is likely to remain so for some years to come. Yet another suggestion—and perhaps the most sensible of all—is that some recognised authority upon currency problems should be invited to investigate the conditions prevailing in Hong Kong, and offer suggestions for remedying the admitted defects of the present system.

Another very unsatisfactory feature of business during the year is the suicidal cutting of prices which is going in certain lines—particularly paper and motor-cars. According to the information appearing elsewhere in a review of trade for the year, an extraordinary state of affairs exists in the motor business. Agents declare that cars are actually being sold at less than cost in order that agents may have ready cash. Orders were placed for a dozen or twenty cars of various models by local agents who appear to have been persuaded to buy against their better judgment. Many dealers have had large numbers of cars left on their hands, and getting short of money, been forced to sell at less than cost. The competition has affected sales of British cars very seriously; American cars already enjoy an advantage in the matter of price, and when those figures are cut still further as a result of dealers being forced to sell to get ready money, the situation becomes—as one firm describes it—"impossible." In the paper trade, too, business has been very bad—the worst year since 1920," says one gentleman particularly well-informed on the subject. Here again goods have been sold well below cost, and are being still offered at less than contract prices. And even at ten or fifteen per cent. under cost there are stocks of paper now in the Colony which cannot be cleared, and must be carried over into next year's accounts. There is reason to believe that much the same conditions exist in other branches of business. Importers of sugar complain that lack of proper banking facilities is making business most difficult. Shipping men declare there is too much tonnage available and not enough freight. In fact, the general tone of the reports published elsewhere is gloomy, with little anticipation of brighter days to come. We can but hope the new year will bring with it a change for the better, but no such improvement is to be looked for unless there is peace in China, and until the uncertainty regarding exchange is disposed of. These two factors are of vital importance to the trade of the Colony, and not before they are satisfactorily resolved can we expect to see any real improvement in local trade and commerce.

The 21-hour (9 p.m.) time-signals on the Royal Observatory wireless mast at Kowloon will be repeated at midnight on December 31, the last signal indicating the close of the year 1929.

The forthcoming wedding is announced of Mr. Donald Skinner, assistant marine superintendent, residing at the Peninsula Hotel, to Miss Mabel Musgrave Coward Calton, of Lane Cove, N.S.W., residing at Harbour View, Chatham Road, Kowloon.

Messrs. A. S. Watson & Co. announce that to-morrow, Wednesday, January 1, all departments will be closed. The Hong Kong Dispensary Dispensing Department will be open for dispensing prescriptions from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

New Kowloon Inland Lot No. 1293, Castle Peak Road, was sold at the Crown Land Office yesterday to Messrs. Chik Sze Lim and Leung King San, of 90, Des Vaux Road, at the upset price of \$3,750. The land has an area of about 7,500 sq. feet and its annual rental is \$34.

We are requested to state that the formal opening of the New Territories Agricultural Show next Saturday will take place shortly after three o'clock. At that hour H.E. the Governor will bid farewell to the local elders, and immediately afterwards will declare the exhibition open.

Mr. and Mrs. John Baldwin Orr of New York City, the parents of Mrs. Roger Culver Tredwell, the wife of the American Consul-General, arrived in the Colony by the s.s. Empress of Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Orr will stay with their daughter and son-in-law for about a month at Shek-O, before the latter proceed to Sydney, where Mr. Tredwell has been appointed Superintending Consul-General in Australia for the U.S.A.

Hong Kong estate to the value of \$74,000 was left by Siow Kon Chia, alias Siu Koon Chia, alias Siow Swee Kee, or Siu Suey Kee, alias Joseph Siow, formerly a planter and miner at Seremban, State of Negri Sembilan, Federated Malay States, who died at Seremban on May 24, this year. Re-entrance of probate has been granted to the eldest son, Siow Kim Sang or Siu Kum Sang, temporarily residing at 331, Nathan Road, Kowloon. The estate is bequeathed to two sons and two daughters.

Rudy Cimino, a film "stunt" artist, who had undertaken to slide down a rope head first from the fortieth storey of a new "skyscraper" at Chicago, was killed in attempting the feat. He lost his hold of the rope and fell head first on the pavement. Two persons were struck by his falling body and were taken to hospital.

A permanent home is to be built for the boat in which Grace Darling and her father saved the nine survivors of the wrecked Forthshire among the Farne Islands in 1838. At a conference at Harrogate of lifeboat workers in North-east England, Mr. George I. Sloss, secretary of the Institution, said it had been hoped that the boat, which was now in the North-east Coast Exhibition at Newcastle, would be placed in Bamforth Church, but they had been unable to obtain permission from the bishop. Lord Armstrong had generously offered to provide a site near the church where a house could be built in which to put the boat. Visitors from all parts of the country could then visit it near the resting-place of the famous heroine.

Priest's Criticism of Converts.

An amazing attack on English Roman Catholics and converts to the Church of Rome was made by Father John Buggy, senior curate of St. Bernard's Church of the Sacred Heart, Halifax, in a recent sermon at St. Walburga's Roman Catholic Church, Shipley. Describing converts as "offly fair-weather Catholics who had come over for obvious reasons," he said—"A lifelong Catholic cannot be beaten out of the Church with a black-out of fifteen out of twenty converts will find any excuse for falling away from the Church, and I do not agree with high ecclesiastics that the converts are those who are carrying on the work of the Church and ought to be specially looked after. Offend whom I may, I am one of those who believe in saying what I think, and I believe that our English Catholic puts his country before his Church, whereas in Ireland the faith has never had to take second place. The abominable Reformation was due to country coming first." Father Buggy referred to neglect and loss of born Catholics, and said—"Look after these and leave the converts alone. They will always find a reason for crawling away from the Church."

News and Views.

Four Chinese cases of small-pox were reported on Sunday.

Li Shick, the prisoner who recently escaped from Laichikok Prison, was recaptured by a Chinese detective on Saturday.

A concert will be given at the Peninsula Hotel by the Filipino community, in honour of Rizal Day, on Sunday, January 5, at 8.30 p.m.

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending December 14 amounted to 99,023 tons, and the sales during the period to 97,975 tons.

Notice has been given of the forthcoming marriage between Mr. Leopold Gotley Frost, of 8, The Peak, Hong Kong, and Miss Margaret Charlotte St. Claire Graham, of 41, Kailan Lane, British Consulate, Tientsin.

Mr. F. F. Duckworth, of the Hong Kong Electric Co., reported to the Police that he left his motor-car unattended on Causeway Hill on Saturday afternoon whilst he went to inspect some mains. When he returned he found that his spare wheel with new tyre attached had been stolen.

Wives and Betting.

Weeping wives who visit the office of the Chief Constable of Sheffield to complain of their husbands squandering their money in street betting were mentioned in the Sheffield Police Court recently. The Chief Constable (Captain P. J. Sillitoe), who addressed the Bench on the question of street betting, said great havoc was being wrought in the homes of poor people. Weeping women visited his office, and he had innumerable letters from wives telling him of the poverty and distress caused in their homes through street betting. Since the beginning of the year fines imposed on men convicted for street betting in the east end of the city. The business, which must be lucrative, was a battle of wits between the bookmakers and the police.

"Ranji" and Lancashire Goods.

In view of the possibility that higher trade barriers are to be imposed in India on Lancashire manufacturers in the near future the proposal of the Maharajah of Nawanganagar, Sir Ranjitsinhji Vibhaji, to give under certain conditions orders for £2,000,000 worth of Lancashire goods a year free of duty is extremely interesting. The Maharajah, who is better known as the famous cricketer "Ranji," left London for India last month, but before sailing he detailed his plans to his old cricketing friend Mr. Walter Brearley, the former Lancashire fast bowler. "Ranji," said Mr. Brearley, "told me that, whatever happened in other parts of India, so far as his private port at his State was concerned he did not propose to impose any duty except a small port duty." Mr. Brearley added that the Maharajah hoped that by eliminating some of the middlemen's profits he might get to rock bottom prices and thus find a good market for Lancashire goods.

H.M.S. Implacable.

Captain S. T. H. Wilton, secretary and treasurer of the Implacable Fund, has issued to the Press an appeal, in the course of which he says—"On November 4 H.M.S. Implacable enters the 12th year of her service under the British flag. She is still the oldest warship afloat in the world. In October, 1925, an appeal was made by Lord Beatty for funds sufficient to restore the ship to her old condition and to fit her out as a holiday training-ship for boys. The response enabled the Implacable to be thoroughly overhauled in Devonport dockyard. She is now at Fulmouth in a condition to remain afloat for many years to come and to enter upon a new period of useful service if the money to complete and endow her can be found. The Admiralty cannot assist her, because all money voted for the navy must be spent on ships of fighting value. The Implacable is not in that category, and if she is to be saved (and for want of funds she is again in danger of being broken up) it must be done by public subscription. The Implacable is an historic monument of national importance; she is the only survivor of the eighteenth-century two-deckers, the most characteristic fighting ships of Nelson's day. And she is to be put to a service which will be a valuable inspiration to the rising generation." All those interested in the saving of this fine old ship are invited to communicate with the secretary, the Implacable Fund, c/o Punch Office, 60, Fleet Street, London, E.C. 4, who will gladly give all information about the ship and the holiday training scheme.

Looking Back 25 Years.

Early yesterday morning Lieutenant Commander E. F. Jellicoe, of the torpedo-boat destroyer, Whiting, was found lying in his cabin with a bullet wound in the head. A weapon was lying beside him, one of the chambers of which was discharged, and all indications point to a case of suicide. The body was removed to the Naval Mortuary, and an inquiry was held at three o'clock in the afternoon on board H.M.S. Thetis. The inquiry was, as usual, held in camera.—Hong Kong Daily Press, December 31, 1904.

Looking Back 50 Years.

Exchange on London:— Bank bills, on demand. 3/9 1/2 Bank bills, at 30 days' sight. 3/10 1/2 Bank bills, at 4 months' sight. 3/10 1/2 Credits, at 4 months' sight. 3/10 1/2 Documentary bills, at 4 months' sight. 3/10 1/2 On Bombay, bank on demand. 226 On Calcutta, bank on demand. 226 On Shanghai:— Bank, sight. 72 1/2 Private, 30 days' sight. 73 1/2 —Hong Kong Daily Press, December 31, 1879.

YEN HSI SHAN'S
POLICY.PLAYING A CRAFTY
GAME?
STILL A MYSTERY.

[FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.]

SHANGHAI, Dec. 30.

It appears that Marshal Yen Hsi Shan has decided to crush General Tang Seng Chi whom he regards as an ally of the Left Wing of the Kuomintang. Marshal Yen has repeatedly stated his belief, that in order to achieve the unification of China all party affairs of the Kuomintang should be settled by that body and national affairs decided by the people. Hence his suggestion of a national convention. Marshal Yen has decided to send a part of the Shanghai army to Honan against General Tang and to mobilise an army of 150,000 men for a general attack on Honan. The Kuomintang army is also said to be on the move from Tungkuang towards western Honan with the object of joining forces with the Shansi troops against General Tang. If this campaign is brought to a successful issue, however, the relations between Nanking and Marshal Yen Hsi Shan and Feng Yu Hsiang who is reputed to be his ally will not be improved, for it looks as if Yen's campaign against Tang is really a pretext for extending his influence down the Yangtze Valley. Should he succeed in this he will be in a stronger position, from a strategic point of view, than Chiang Kai Shek.

It is significant, perhaps, that Shih Yu San, Han Fu Chu and others who have recently rebelled against Nanking are not included in the list of "rebels" recently issued by Chiang Kai Shek. It is reported that the Generalissimo is attempting to buy their loyalty in view of the possible downfall of Tang Seng Chi, which would so much strengthen the position of Marshal Yen.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND
EXTRALITY.

ATTITUDE UNCHANGED.

[BRITISH WIRELESS SERVICE.]

RUGBY, Dec. 29.

The Nanking Government has issued a mandate, declaring the abolition of extra-territorial rights in China as from January 1. This would mean if the Powers assented, that nationals of Great Britain, France, Japan, United States and other powers would be subject to the Chinese civil and criminal courts, instead of to the courts established by these Powers.

These rights in the case of Great Britain date from 1842. During recent years the Powers have revealed a readiness to accede to the national aspirations of the Chinese. The memorandum of Sir Austen Chamberlain three years ago was an indication of this desire.

But it has been obvious that the full surrender of extra-territorial rights could only be gradual. An aide memoir which the British Government recently handed to the Chinese Minister in London expressed British willingness in conjunction with other interested Powers, to discuss the question of the removal of these rights, but with the above proviso.

It is understood the attitude of the British Government remains unchanged, it being still prepared to discuss the question of extra-territoriality with the other interested Powers.

THE NAVAL CONFERENCE.

UNITED STATES AND
FRENCH VIEWPOINT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

PARIS, Dec. 30.

M. Tardieu yesterday lunched with Senator Walter Edge, the new United States Ambassador to Paris. According to *Le Matin*, they discussed questions likely to arise at the Naval Conference in London. *Le Matin* declares that the United States Government was not altogether surprised at the French viewpoint, and does not intend to press very strongly for the abolition of submarines, and adds that the Italian claim of parity with France does not appear to have met with a very favourable reception, as other powers opine it is more logical to fix naval strength in accordance with individual requirements.

French Naval Programme.

PARIS, Dec. 30.

The Senate has approved the naval construction programme, as proposed last month.

The Hague Meeting.

LATER.

The Belgian Premier, M. Jaspar, has arrived in Paris and conferred with M. Tardieu in regard to the preparations for The Hague Conference.

CRUSHING OUT
KWANGSI.

ADVANCE UPON NANNING.

EARLY CAPITULATION
EXPECTED.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

CANTON, Dec. 30.

It is reported that both Li Chung Jen and Pai Chung Hsi, leaders of the present Kwangsi rebellion, have fled to Annam. The Yunnan troops under General Yun Lung are now approaching Nanning, and the fall of that city is expected shortly.

General Chen Ming Shu is contemplating making a trip to Wuchow in the course of the next day or so for a conference with General Chen Tsai Tong in regard to the affairs of Kwangsi.

K.-C.-R. Service.

It is learned here that the express service between Canton and Kowloon on the Canton-Kowloon Railway will be resumed on January 1. The damaged bridges at Shek Ha and Sha Tsuen have been temporarily repaired. Running trials are being made to-day.

These, it is understood, are only temporary arrangements. The two bridges are being repaired at a cost of over \$20,000. The work will be completed probably by the end of February. The destruction of the two bridges and the consequent paralysis of train service has meant a heavy loss to the Railway, and repairs are a matter of urgency.

LECTURE BY DR. MARTIN.

AMERICAN PROFESSOR IN
CANTON.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

CANTON, Dec. 30.

An instructive lecture on "The Denunciation of War" was given this morning, Monday, in the auditorium of Sun Yat Sen University before a very large audience of students and members of the faculty by Dr. Charles E. Martin, Professor of Political Science and Dean of the Faculty of Social Science, University of Washington. Dr. Martin arrived in Canton yesterday and is staying at Lingnan University in the home of Prof. and Mrs. Clinton N. Laird. He is here to deliver a series of lectures.

Dr. Martin is an international figure, and a noted writer, being the author of "Policy of the United States as Regards Intervention," "An Outline of the American Government," "The Politics of Peace," and "Foundations of an Ordered World."

"The Principles of World Politics" and "The Unity of Civilization" are the topics that Dr. Martin will speak upon in the Canton Y.M.C.A. at 7.30 on Thursday and Friday.

FURTHER SUCCESS OF
CANTON TROOPS.FALL OF MONGKIANG AND
PINGLOK.

According to the vernacular Press, the Canton-Nanking forces in the northern sector in Kwangsi, have captured Pinglok, and the 60th and 61st Canton Divisions in the southern sector, have taken Mongkiang which lies between Sunchow and Tanshiang.

Following their capture of Hoshien and Papi, the troops commanded by Chu Shao Liang took Pinglok from the Kwangsi "Iron-sides" coalition, without encountering much resistance. The "defenders" retreated in the direction of Kweilin and the victors pursued them, capturing two battalions. The 19th Division of the Hunan troops have also moved against Kweilin. Kweichow troops under Mo Kuang Hsiang are to attack Liuchow.

Mongkiang was captured on the 29th without fighting and the Kwangsi troops retreated towards Sunchow. The plan of the Canton troops in this sector, is to capture Sunchow before the New Year and then attack Nanning. The Yunnan Provincial Government has also dispatched forces to attack the Kwangsi troops in Pochi and Lungchow.

The Kwangsi "Iron-sides" armies are reported to have lost two thirds of their men since the beginning of the campaign, and over 18,000 rifles, forty-three pieces of artillery and 130 machine-guns have been taken.

ference, of which M. Jaspar is Chairman.

It is stated from Berlin that Dr. Schacht is not going to The Hague with the German delegation, but may be called on to attend the Conference if necessary.

VIEWS ON INDIA'S
STATUS.THE ROUND-TABLE
CONFERENCE.

DIVERGENT OPINIONS.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

LAHORE, Dec. 29.

After a debate lasting ten hours, the Subject Committee of the Indian National Congress adopted Gandhi's resolution defining Swaraj as complete independence for India. An amendment by Chandra Bose proposing the complete severance of British connection and the setting up of a parallel government was rejected by 131 votes to 89.

The Subjects Committee is entrusted with the task of formulating resolutions for the Plenary Meeting and Gandhi's resolution will thus now go before the Full Congress.

In the course of a speech before the Committee, Gandhi said that Lord Irwin, Viceroy, at the conference with the five Indian Nationalist leaders on Monday last, made it clear that he could not accept the Nehru Report on Dominion Status before December 31, 1929.

Open Doors.

This left the Nationalist leaders with no alternative but to declare independence as their goal.

Replying to those who contended that the resolution left the door open, Gandhi gave an assurance that he would not hereafter accept a round-table conference to discuss Dominion Status, but however the fight might be continued, its end, if achieved, must be a peace conference and the door for that would always be open.

He expressed the opinion that the country had awakened and gained immensely in strength through the creed of non-violence. Referring to Chandra Bose's amendment, Gandhi said that the Legislative Councils, local bodies, the Law Courts and the schools ought to be boycotted, but he was not advising all this at present, nor the establishment of a parallel government, as he wished to proceed step by step.

What Liberals Think.

MADRAS, Dec. 29.

The Hon. Sir Phiroze Sethna, a Member of the Council of State of the Government of India, presiding at the conference of the National Liberal Federation, said that if Dominion Status was granted without undue delay, there would be no political or ethical justification for India to seek to sever British connection.

The Liberals could not support a general policy of the non-payment of taxes. Such a policy would plunge the country into the evils of open conflict with the Government, which, in sheer self-defence, would be quite justified in taking every necessary measure to suppress such a general movement of civil disobedience.

A Grave Blunder.

Referring to the round-table conference announced by the British Government as planned to take place soon after the presentation of the Report of the Simon Commission, to which representatives of all classes of political thought in India would be invited, Sir Phiroze Sethna declared that India would commit a grave blunder if they rejected Britain's offer.

If, however, the question of the immediate establishment of full responsible Government, Provincial or National, or of the immediate attainment of Dominion Status, were excluded from the purview of the Conference, it would serve no good purpose and the Liberals would have to refuse to have anything to do with it.

Down the Union Jack!

LAHORE, Dec. 30.

The spirit pervading the all-India Congress is illustrated by the delegates' reception of Jawahar Lal Nehru in his presidential address, at the conclusion of which they chorused "Up, Up, the National Flag, Down, Down, with the Union Jack."

It is feared that the Left Wing delegates in the plenary session of the Congress to-morrow will reverse the decision on Gandhi's resolution, as the majority of the delegates are extremists.

The Subjects Committee also carried by 115 votes to 111 an amendment deleting words appreciating the Viceroy's services. The Gandhi party demanded a poll, whereupon the amendment was again carried by 187 votes to 134. There will be a further recount.

Gandhi's resolution, which includes the boycott of Legislative Councils, omits municipalities, and is acclaimed by those holding the view that an independence creed is not inconsistent with the Oath of Allegiance is administered. Gandhi attacked the idea to develop a boycott programme gradually. Similarly, an amendment to boycott the Law Courts was rejected narrowly. Both sections are accordingly preparing to canvass the Congress delegates.

ANOTHER GALE AT
HOME.RIVER DEE BURSTS ITS
BANKS.

RESCUES AT SEA.

[BRITISH WIRELESS SERVICE.]

RUGBY, Dec. 30.

Yet another severe gale, with gusts reaching a velocity of 83 miles an hour, swept the British Isles, Northern France and the North Sea during the weekend. The wind moderated to-day but unsettled conditions are likely to remain.

Tremendous seas were running in the English Channel and the straits of Dover, and lifeboat crews were kept standing by in case of emergency. After battling all night against the gale, the captain, his wife and child and crew of 8 of the German motor-ship *Hermine*, which ran aground on a sandbank about 5 miles off Margate, were rescued yesterday by the Margate Motor Lifeboat. The crew were in state of complete exhaustion when rescued. The *Hermine* refloated and drifted away, but was located and anchored by steam tugs.

Considerable damage was done by storm on the land. Successive rains caused a recurrence of flooding in many districts but the lower Thames levels were not appreciably higher. In the Oxford district however, large stretches of water cover the low-lying meadows. In east and north Yorkshire thousands of acres are covered with water which is six feet deep. In North Wales many roads are again impassable.

When the River Dee burst its banks near Corwen yesterday morning farmers lost many cattle and sheep despite all attempts at rescue. The storm carried away the aerial of the British Broadcasting Corporation short-wave station at Chelmsford. Other stations worked normally, but the mishap at Chelmsford necessitated the abandonment of the arrangement for broadcasting for American listeners of the Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon, delivered last night at Canterbury Cathedral.

BELLS IN HYDE PARK.
NOVELTY FOR THE PUBLIC.

[BRITISH WIRELESS SERVICE.]

RUGBY, Dec. 30.

Before shipment to Wellington, New Zealand, where they will be hung as a war memorial, an exceptionally fine carillon of bells, which has been cast in London, has been placed in Hyde Park, and daily recitals are to be given upon them by famous ringers.

Experts state that the bells represent one of the finest examples of the bell-founders' craft ever produced.

RUM-RUNNERS SEIZED.
U.S. COASTGUARDS ON
THE JOB.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

NEWPORT, R.I., Dec. 30.

Three of the crew of the Black Duck, a steamer laden with liquor, were shot dead, and the fourth wounded in an encounter with a coastguard cutter near the mouth of Narragansett Bay. As a result the Black Duck was seized and towed to New London.

From New London, it is learned that a 100-ton vessel, the *Florelmar*, believed to be British was seized, off Montauk Point by a coastguard cutter. Liquor valued at \$20,000 is reported to have been aboard.

It is alleged that the crew had set fire to the ship, and escaped in the fog.

SERIOUS TROUBLE IN
SAMOA.CONSTABLE BEATEN TO
DEATH.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

WELLINGTON, Dec. 29.

A white constable and two members of the Samoan Mau or native party, were killed, and two constables and thirty Mau supporters injured at Apia, on Saturday, in the most serious disturbance in Samoa since New Zealand assumed the mandate there.

The rioting was a result of an attempt by the police to arrest several people who were participating in a procession in honour of the return of Mr. A. G. Smythe from deportation.

The white constable, an Irishman, was beaten to death. Police reinforcements armed with revolvers rescued the other policemen.

LATER.

The complete casualty list in the Samoa rioting is one policeman killed and six injured, besides 8 Samoans killed and 12 injured.

The Samoan deaths include Chief Tamaeaso, who served a term of imprisonment in New Zealand for failing to pay taxes. Two thousand members of the Mau participated in the parade at which the rioting started, and 300 joined the Mau.

NOCTURNAL RITES
IN JUNGLE.CEREMONY AT F.M.S.
VILLAGE.BEHEADED ROOSTER AND
COLOURED CLOTH.

[FROM THE "STRAITS TIMES."]

A secret society meeting in the jungle at Changi led to the appearance of eleven Chinese before the District Judge, Mr. C. H. G. Clarke. The accused were charged with attending a meeting of the Sin Gi Hin secret society. The first man pleaded guilty, but all the others claimed to be tried. Mr. C. de Silva appeared for the eleven accused. Chief Court Inspector Meredith conducted the case for the Crown.

Sub-inspector Ah Long stated that he received certain information and communicated by telephone with Mr. B. F. Oakeshott, A.S.P. The same morning at 4 o'clock he led a party of detectives and constables to the fourth mile, Changi Road. At about 5.30 the motor buses he was expecting commenced to arrive and he held them up and took into custody the passengers. The buses arrived at intervals of about five minutes. In the first there were four men—the first four accused. All of them had mud marks on their left knees, as if they had been kneeling. The second bus had another four men, three of whom had similar marks on their left knees. Out of five persons in the third bus two had marks on their left knees and the fourth bus contained the last two accused, who also had similar marks.

Police Taken to Scene. All the accused, together with thirteen other Chinese, were taken to the Geylang Police Station, where the thirteen were subsequently discharged. Accompanied by Mr. Oakeshott and the first accused witness went to a spot off the 5th mile Changi Road about a mile inside.

Structure of Branches. The first accused told witness that he had been attending an initiation ceremony and could point out the place. Proceeding to the spot, witness saw that the ground for about ten yards square had been recently trampled and was of clay. He found a branch structure, sweets and biscuits, and a white rooster whose head had been recently cut off. There were also pieces of coloured paper and paper flags with characters on them. When he went to the house of the old woman the accused pointed out a bag which was behind a picture. The bag was found to contain a quantity of coloured papers with Chinese characters on them.

Witness also examined the hands of the accused and on the tip of the middle finger of the left hand of the first five he found fresh pin prick marks and, by pressure, drew blood from the punctures. The sixth accused had no such mark, but from the punctures on the fingers of the seventh, eighth and ninth witness was able to draw blood. The last two accused had pin prick marks on their fingers, but he could draw no blood.

Expert Evidence of Initiations. Expert evidence regarding initiation ceremonies was given by Mr. S. B. King, who said that he had been attached to the Chinese Protectorate for the last eight years. At a secret society initiation ceremony it was necessary to have an arch of swords set up and the initiates had to go through this arch. Nowadays this arch was made of simple things like bamboo and branches. Once through the arch, the initiates came to a place where was set up an altar which was generally a box, with covering, representing the altar cloth with characters on it. During the ceremony a white rooster was decapitated and the blood mixed with the blood of the initiates and wine. Flags were set up on the altar, these being of five different colours representing five former patriots of the society. The white and red strips of cloth were tied round the heads of the initiates. The pieces of coloured paper were a sort of scroll with verses written on them, and these verses were read out to the initiates. The big piece of black paper represented the memorial stone to the first triad martyr. All the exhibits found at Changi were identified by Mr. King as relating to a triad society meeting.

"A Repentant Sinner." On being asked if he had anything to say, the first accused said that he had been asked to go for a walk but had nothing to do with the initiation ceremony.

His Honour: That is why you pleaded guilty and also showed the notice where these things were?—Mr. Oakeshott took me there.

His Honour: Mr. Oakeshott appears to be a thought reader. I thought you were a repentant sinner. Apparently you are not.

His Honour discharged the sixth and eleventh accused but convicted the others, who were sentenced to three months rigorous imprisonment each.

(Continued on next column).

DUTCH EAST INDIES
AGITATION.AUTHORITIES PREVENT
PROPAGANDA.

DOCUMENTS SEIZED.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

BATAVIA, Dec. 30.

Owing to the receipt of evidence that the "Association of Nationalists of Indonesia" intended to organise trouble in the New Year, the authorities have carried out wholesale raids throughout the Dutch East Indies, including the native political centres of Bandung, Semarang, and Surabaya.

Quantities of documents were seized and examined without result. Many natives have been detained, and several prominent agitators arrested. It has been proved that Bandung is the chief centre of propaganda, but Government action has apparently cut this off at the source. The situation is quiet.

JAPANESE COAL-MINE
DISASTER.

51 WORKERS TRAPPED.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

TOKYO, Dec. 30.

Fifty-one people were trapped as the result of an explosion at the Mitsui coal mine, in Fukushima Prefecture, this afternoon. Forty-four have been recovered so far. Two are dead and the others seriously injured.

FLYERS' FUNERAL.

FULL HONOURS TO BE
ACCORDED.

[BRITISH WIRELESS SERVICE.]

RUGBY, Dec. 29.

The Air Ministry announces that it had been proposed to have a joint funeral, with full Royal Air Force ceremonial for Squadron Leader Jones Williams and Flight-Lieut. Jenkins, who lost their lives in Tunis while attempting to break the world's long-distance flying record. The Air Council has, however, deferred to the wishes of the relatives of Squadron Leader Jones Williams, who desire that he should be buried in the family burial ground at Hasbocks, in Sussex.

In view of this decision it has now been arranged that Flight-Lieut. Jenkins will be buried in the Royal Air Force ground at Ipswich Cemetery, where the officers of the Royal Air Force stationed at the aerodrome and armament experimental establishment at Martlesham Heath, to which deceased officer belonged, are normally interred. There will, accordingly, be no ceremony when the bodies of the two gallant officers arrive at Southampton.

If the relatives agree, the two officers will be buried with Air Force honours. The Air Council, the Air Force Commands and the units concerned will be officially represented, and bearer and firing parties will be provided by the Service.

On the explicit understanding that the father of the second accused, the 15-year-old youth, would give him a good thrashing when he got home, the youth was bound over for six months in a surety of \$50.

Telegrams in Brief.

The flotilla leader, H.M.S. Bruce, flying the flag of Vice-Admiral Sir A.K. Waite, has left Shanghai for Hong Kong.

Professor Bartel, the Premier from June 1928, to June 1929, has formed a new Cabinet in Poland which includes Marshal Pilsudski as Secretary for War. M. Zaleski will act as Foreign Minister.

The well-known German lawn tennis player, H. Moldenhauer, was killed, his artist friend seriously injured, and two other friends slightly injured, in a collision between a motor-car and a tramcar in Berlin.

The amount of tonnage built in the United States in 1929 exceeds last year's by over 22 per cent, according to an article in the *Marine Engineering and Shipping Age*. Future prospects, based on hand in the shipyards exceeds that already delivered, and the fact that plans and specifications are being prepared for 51 vessels, are more encouraging than at any time since the war.

MISSING NORWEGIAN
AIRMAN.

AN EXTENSIVE SEARCH.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

OSLO, Dec. 29.

Sixteen whalers operating in Antarctic waters have spent the last three days in a fruitless search for Leif Leir, a Norwegian airman, who took off from the whaler *Kosmos* and has not returned. Grave fears are entertained for the airman who has been missing for four days.

After scouring a vast area several times amid the drifting ice without result, most of the whalers have now given up the search, but the *Kosmos* and her white-crested continue their quest. It is felt certain that the airman could not have passed outside the area which has been covered.

The *Kosmos* has been in wireless communication with the camp of Commander Byrd, the American explorer, who has several planes with him, but the opinion is expressed that Commander Byrd's participation in the search would involve too great a risk as his planes are not adapted for the purpose of alighting on the sea, while landing on ice-floes would be far too dangerous.

PRINCE'S SHOOTING TRIP.

AN EARLY RESUMPTION.

[BRITISH WIRELESS SERVICE.]

RUGBY, Dec. 29.

The Prince of Wales will leave England on Friday next for South Africa in order to finish the programme he had arranged for last year, which was interrupted by the grave illness of the King.

His Royal Highness will be accompanied by Colonel Piers Leigh and Captain Aird, and will travel direct to South Africa by the Union Castle steamer, *Kentworth Castle*.

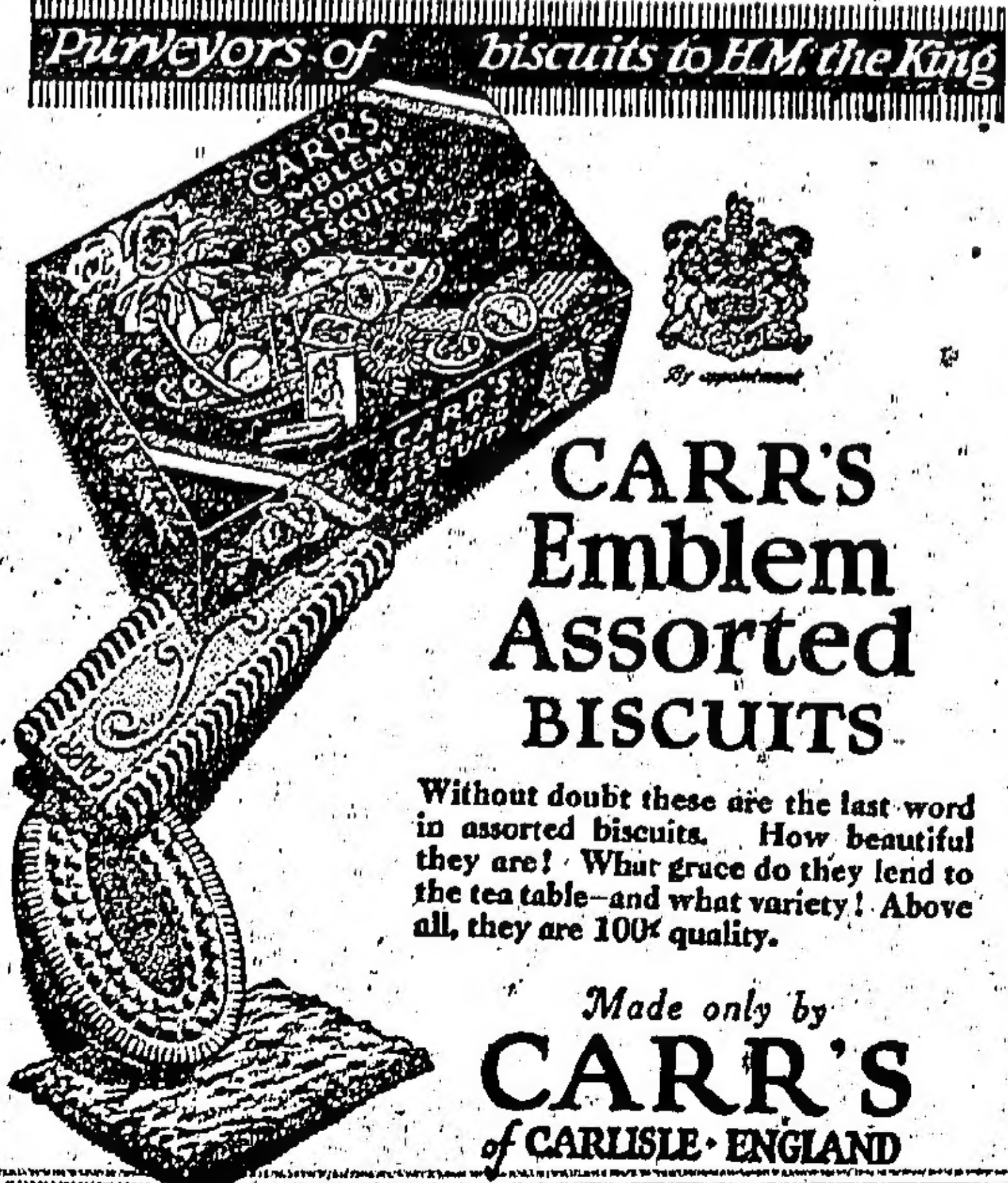
He will land at Capetown and stay in the Union probably about a fortnight before making his way overland to East Africa for the big game shooting.

The expedition will be of a strictly private character and no official engagements of any kind will be made during the trip.

How long the Prince will remain in East Africa has not been decided and details of his arrangements have been left to be settled after his arrival.

It is anticipated that the Prince will be back in England some time in April, though this cannot be definitely stated.

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Sports News

CRICKET.

ROYAL NAVY v. ARMY.

The second match of the Triangular Tournament started yesterday in damp and miserable weather. The Army went in at noon and by tiffin had collected eighty odd runs for five wickets. Davis was finely caught in the box before he had scored, and Major Crake nearly succumbed to his first ball from Boumphrey which swung away, and went up off the shoulder of his bat. However, no one could get to it. He had made a nice 27 when he failed to get at a ball he was trying to turn to leg, and put up a catch to mid-on. Musson had come in first wicket, and had taken his score to 18, when he hit out at one of Moseley's slow, and was caught at cover. Reynolds was yorked by Laslett after collecting a similar number. Things went even worse for the Army then, for after he had scored 9, Maxwell hit a tremendous smack to square leg, which was brilliantly caught by Wright, Wyatt and Wolfe-Barry kept the wicket up till tiffin.

After Tiffin.

After tiffin there was a miserable drizzle. Before the ball got really greasy Bennett turned one past Wyatt's bat to bowl him. It looked a very good 'un as the batsman played perfectly straight and right back, but I think he was beaten for pace. (88-6-4) Fry then came in and began to hit desperately. The ball was obviously difficult to hold, and there were a few bye boundaries as well. Thanks to these, and a good deal of good fortune, the score rose rapidly. Fry now hit even more fiercely—a glorious six hitting a passing bus—and rattled up fifty-five in half an hour, including one six and nine fours. The wicket had put on over a hundred runs when Stanley caught Fry very nicely on the boundary by the Law Courts. Five minutes later, Christian was run out from a fine return by Baker. Wolfe Barry was then forty, and later he completed his fifty with a nice shot through the covers. He was finally stumped off Baker, who had bowled very well with the new ball, for 55. The innings closed for 233, of which the last four wickets had put on roughly 150—an excellent performance. Wolfe Barry had started very shakily, but later on his timing was excellent.

Navy Fare Badly.

The Navy made a pretty grisly start. At 55 Silettoe was well caught at mid-off from Fry, who bowled Stephenson at 9. Boumphrey was bowled by Christian for a couple, and then Stanley was taken at the wicket off Fry. Four were down for 21. Baker and Wright kept the wicket going for a bit, but at 20, the latter, who had never been comfortable, was taken in the slips off Reynolds, who had relieved Christian at the Yard end.

More Trouble.

With Laslett in Fry was rested, and Everest went on. Ten runs were laboriously collected, and then Baker hit over a well pitched up ball from Reynolds. It pitched on his toe, and he was l.b.w. Next ball Glass was caught at first slip. (40-7-4). A few runs later, Laslett cut Reynolds very hard square, and Sawyer dived across and brought off a brilliant catch. (45-7-7). The light was very bad at this time, and it was really rather difficult to see the ball. Moseley got Reynolds to long leg for four. The Army, by the way, had out two subs, and Davis was keeping for Crake who was away. Cross was keeping his bat pretty straight and defending steadily, and runs were far between. When 80 went up, Christian relieved Reynolds, and bowled Cross with a ball which he made a yorker. (61-9-5) Bennett got a single off the last ball of the over, and then the players very wisely came in.

Commentary.

One must give all credit to Fry and Wolfe Barry for their plucky innings, but it is only fair to point out that the Navy bowlers were handicapped by a greasy ball. The run of luck definitely favoured the Army. However, Fry was badly dropped twice, and that cannot be called luck. The Navy batting depends almost entirely on two men or perhaps four—if they do not come off, the side is almost sure to be out for a very small total. The game re-starts at 11 a.m. to-day, and the Navy have to get

If my memory serves me, 100 is the

GOLF.

ROYAL HONG KONG GOLF CLUB.

COMPETITION RESULTS—CHRISTMAS MEETING.

FANLING, DEC. 24-29.

Medal Round.

A. C. I. Bowker 34-19=72 wins.
Other scores:—
A. D. Humphreys 64-11=73
W. M. Thomson 77-3=74
H. U. Ireland 51-7=74
T. C. Monaghan 53-10=73
H. U. Ireland 53-7=76
There were 28 entries.

Bogey Competition.

E. D. Lawrence (4) 5 up wins.
G. W. Sewell (14) 3 up second.
Other scores:—G. W. Sewell (14)
2 up; W. W. Mackenzie (7), W. M. Thomson (3), Surg. Comdr. J. Wyllie (9), Lieut. A. H. Alexander (5), D. M. MacDougall (7), W. A. H. Maxwell (12), A. D. Humphreys (11) and G. E. Costello (13), 1 up.
Ninety-five entries.

Mixed Foursomes Against Bogey.

Major Lucas and Miss Wane 3 down win.
Other scores:—Wing Comdr. and Mrs. Steele Perkins, 4 down; T. S. and Mrs. Whyte Smith, 4 down; L. G. S. and Mrs. Dodwell, 3 down.
Twenty-seven entries.

follow on number in a two-day match.

Their first innings batting was distinctly bad, and I don't think the Army bowling was difficult as they made it look. Wyatt could not bowl owing to a damaged foot, Musson is apparently still on the injured list as regards bowling, while, owing to some misunderstanding, Leach did not turn out, and his place was taken by Everest.

I should like to refer to Davis's work behind the sticks. He seems as good as anyone here in taking the ball, and his catch on the leg-side from Stanley was brilliant. I did not see him get a chance of stumping anyone. It is a pity he is not a stronger bat.

R. ABBIT.

Present score and analysis:—

First Innings of Army.

Major R. H. Crake, c Laslett, b Boumphrey 27
Corpl. Davis, c Wright, b Laslett 0
Lieut. A. H. Musson, c Stephenson, b Moseley 18
Capt. J. R. Reynolds, b Laslett 18
Lieut. W. A. H. Maxwell, c Wright, b Moseley 9
Lieut. Col. F. J. Wyatt, b Bennett 6
Lieut. Wolfe Barry, c Cross, b Baker 55
Corpl. Fry, c Stanley, b Daker 57
Lieut. C. C. Christian, run out 6
Lee-Corpl. Sawyer, b Boumphrey 13
Lee-Corpl. Everest, not out 3
Extras: Bys 17, leg byes 2 19
Total.....233

Fall of wickets:—1/0; 2/49; 3/49; 4/77; 5/77; 6/88; 7/176; 8/101; 9/217; 10/233.

Bowling Analysis.

| | O. | M. | R. | W. |
|--------------|-----|----|----|----|
| Comdr. Baker | 14 | 3 | 59 | 2 |
| Laslett | 15 | 6 | 31 | 2 |
| Boumphrey | 7.5 | 1 | 34 | 2 |
| Moseley | 9 | 1 | 52 | 2 |
| Bennett | 8 | 2 | 39 | 1 |

First Innings of Navy.

Lieut. J. P. Wright, c Wyatt, b Reynolds 8
Capt. F. G. Silettoe, R.M., c Reynolds, b Fry 4
Lieut. F. M. R. Stephenson, b Fry 4
Squad. Leader Boumphrey, b Christian 2
Comdr. E. G. Stanley, c Davis, b Fry 7
Comdr. F. C. Baker, l.b.w., b Reynolds 8
Able Seaman F. N. Laslett, c Sawyer, b Reynolds 7
Sub-Lieut. C. L. Glass, c Wyatt, b Reynolds 0
Sub-Lieut. P. C. Moseley, not out 11
Stoker T. Cross, b Christian 5
Engr. Lieut. C. R. Bennett, not out 5
Extras: Bys 4, leg byes 1 5
Total (for 9 wickets).....62

Fall of wickets:—1/5; 2/9; 3/12; 4/21; 5/29; 6/40; 7/40; 8/45; 9/61.

Bowling Analysis.

| | O. | M. | R. | W. |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Corpl. Fry | 13 | 5 | 21 | 3 |
| Lieut. Christian | 9 | 5 | 9 | 2 |
| Engr. Reynolds | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lieut. Everest | 3 | 1 | 8 | 0 |

CRICKET NOTES.

ROYAL ARTILLERY WITHDRAW?

[By "L.B.W."]

Of the three League matches originally scheduled to come off on Saturday, only the Indian Recreation Club and Royal Engineers game was played. The match between the University and R.A.O.C. was postponed, while the C.S.C.C. Royal Artillery event was cancelled. I am told that the latter have withdrawn from the League, but up to the moment of writing I have not been able to get this confirmed. There were a few friendlies played, and on the whole weather and ground conditions were good.

As expected, the Indians secured full points from the R.E. & R.S., but not till after had to fight tooth and nail for them. The R.E. skipper won the toss, and quite rightly elected to bat. They were unfortunate, however, in being up against young Suffad bowling at the top of his form, and were all out for a rather poor score. I happened to be at the match, and must say I was greatly impressed by this lad's bowling. He was sending them down very fast and keeping a perfect length. Had it not been for Harrison and Licence, both of whom played gallant knocks, the side would probably have been out for a smaller total. The Indians fared very badly at the start, and have Akber and Mohammed to thank for their victory. Harrison bowled extremely well for the soldiers—his medium off breaks, with an occasional on from the leg, proving a great source of trouble to the I.R.C. bats.

I must give a word of praise to S. Ismail, who kept excellently. The only "extra" in the innings came from a wide!

At the H.K.C.C. ground the Club juniors swamped the Craigen-gower Cricket Club. G. E. R. Divett was in his deadliest form with the ball, and the C.C.C. were all out for 35! Lane Crawford had the better of the R.A.S.C., while the Police inflicted a severe beating on the Hong Kong Electric Recreation Club. B. G. Baker, the Police fast bowler, had the distinction of performing the hat-trick in this match. He collected nine "scalps" for only 30 runs, and his last six were taken without conceding a single run. A very creditable performance, and I would like to see him up against a strong batting side—the H.K.C.C. for instance. It would be interesting to see how he would fare then.

There are four League and one friendly game on the programme for the coming Saturday. Recreation will be at home to the R.E. & R.S., and should just about do it. Hong Kong Cricket Club will probably find the Civil Service Cricket Club an easy proposition, while I expect the R.A.S.C. to match full points from the Craigen-gower Cricket Club. The other match is between the Variety and R.A. If the latter have really withdrawn, then there will be no game; otherwise I expect the Undergraduates to win. The only friendly on the programme is between the R.A.O.C. and the Indians. By the way, I was rather surprised to see Abbas turning out for the latter in their League game with the R.E. and S. last Saturday, as he has played for their first eleven since the beginning of the season. However, upon inquiry, I was told that he has swapped places with Doodna, a new arrival.

The positions of the Clubs, up-to-date, are:—

| | P. | W. | D. | L. | Pts. |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|------|
| Police | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| H.K.C.C. | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Kowloon C.C. | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Craigen-gower | 5 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 7 |
| Indian R. C. | 3 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 6 |
| Recreation | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 6 |
| Civil Service | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 |
| R.E. and S. | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| University | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| R.A.S.C. | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Royal Artillery | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| R.A.O.C. | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 |

RUGGER.

H.M.S. CORNWALL AND THE CLUB.

At Happy Valley on Saturday, H.M.S. Cornwall will meet the Club in a Rugby match. It is hoped that the Cornwall will send over their strongest team.

An attraction at the match will be the appearance of H.M.S. Cornwall's "funny party" who will amuse with their "latest hits". Seeing this will be the Cornwall's last match before they leave for the North, a good gathering is expected.

LAWN TENNIS.

LOCAL CHAMPION BEATEN.

S.C.A.A. PLAYER IN LIMELIGHT.

A surprise was sprung in tennis circles on Saturday, when M. W. Lo, Open Singles Champion of the Colony, lost to Luk Ding Cheung, in the Chinese Recreation Club Singles Championship. The scores in favour of the latter were 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, and 6-4.

Lo naturally started favourably, and from the start had matters very much his own way. When he had taken two sets, it was generally thought that the match was over, but Luk made a great recovery, and carried off the next three sets for the match.

Luk Ding Cheung, who has had several years' experience in the game, is to be congratulated. He had not, until Saturday, done anything outstanding. In the last Open Singles Championship he lost to S. A. Rumjahn in the second round by 3-6, 3-6, 3-6.

Needless to say, his supporters consider him to be the South China Athletic Association "hope". The Singles Championship of the Chinese Recreation Club is an interesting competition. It is worthy of note that Ng Sze Kwong has never suffered a reverse in it, and has been champion thirteen years out of the last fifteen; the remaining two he did not compete. Ho Ka Lau is the holder, while M. W. Lo has not yet been the winner.

The first round results were:—

In Tak Cheuk beat Mok Hing Sang 6-4, 6-1, 6-0.
Ng Sze Kwong beat Luk Kaag Cheung 6-1, 6-3, 7-5.
Ho Ka Lau beat Leung Sai Wah 6-2, 6-1, 6-1.
F. H. Kwok beat W. P. Tsui 3-6, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Cheung Wing Kiu beat To Woon Kun 6-3, 4-6, 0-4, 3-6, 6-0.
Lau Man Kwong beat H. Y. Ho 6-3, 6-6, 7-5.
Chang Chi Wing beat Lu Tak Lam 6-2, 6-3, 8-1.
M. K. Lo beat Yew Man Kit 6-1, 6-1, 6-4.
So far the second round results are:—
M. K. Lo beat Cheung Chi Wing 13-11, 7-5, 8-6.
Luk Ding Cheung beat M. W. Lo 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

SINGAPORE'S NEW STADIUM.

WELL-EQUIPPED ENCLOSURE AT JALAN BESAR.

Transformation from waterlogged, useless ground to one of the finest sports enclosures in Malaya is the story of the new Jalan Besar stadium, which has been constructed by the Singapore Municipal Commissioners at a cost of over \$60,000 and was inaugurated with a football match on Boxing Day.

The idea of filling in this ground and using it as a recreation area for a crowded district of the city was conceived some years ago. Municipal refuse was utilised for the reclamation work, until at last a level was reached at which water was eliminated, and a proposal to use the site for an up-to-date sports ground was mooted and accepted with enthusiasm. The land was levelled, a thick layer of soil put over it, followed by turf, and an excellent pitch was the result. Special attention was paid to the drainage of the playing area.

The primary purpose of the new enclosure will be Association football, but there will also be room for a Rugby ground. The area will be on the small side for cricket, and it is unlikely that the ground will be used for that game.

Quarter-Mile Cinder Track.

There is a quarter-mile cinder track round the playing area, and this will be most useful, especially for training, facilities for the latter being most inadequate at present in the city. Accommodation is available for about 10,000 spectators, of whom over 5,000 can be seated, movable chairs being provided. A pavilion, with two changing rooms, a committee room, and bathing and other arrangements, is completed, and stands to give protection in wet weather will be built as soon as funds are available. There are six entrances to the ground and parking accommodation for 150 cars has been arranged.

The stadium does not occupy the whole of the reclaimed area, and on the remainder a sports ground reserved exclusively for Singapore schools has been constructed and also a children's playground. It is possible that a bandstand may be added later.—The Straits Times.

Mr. Cairns, Thames Magistrate: Bad language does not matter much. Some men like to talk rhetorically.

A Clerkenwell County Court witness gave his name as Sam Weller. Mr. Registrar Friend: You are welcome. You ought to know something about law-bits.

Hong Kong at Play.

SPORTS NOTES AND COMMENTS.

[By "BROADCASTER."]

Much interest is centred now on prospects of the Derby in the forthcoming race-meeting, and quite a big crowd is seen on the rails on galloping days to watch the ponies going through their paces. Several good animals are already marked down for closer attention during the interval between now and the races, and of course all the big stables are included. Mr. Ho Kom Tong has a very likely-looking animal in Royal Hall, an animal which might fully uphold the fine record of President Hall, who brought the Derby home to the Chinese stable last year.

Another good animal in the Griffin class is King's Bounty, a pony of which more will no doubt be heard as the training season progresses. The pony is one of the long line of "Kings" that have raced locally for so many years, and may prove more fortunate and more successful than its predecessors. Mr. Dunbar has several good griffins, but one (so far unnamed) is a liver chestnut, looks as if it is going to restore pride of place to the Dunbar string, and live up to the high standard set by Elliot Bay and Sitting Bull.

Ilya Mouromitz, to whom reference has been made by this paper's racing scribe, "Morning Dew," gave racers a glimpse of his real prowess the other morning, when he was pushed over a hundred yards or so of the straight. The pony literally "flew" when asked, and will be a real danger to the crackjacks who are aiming for the Champion. Ilya Mouromitz had been more or less "cantered" until then, and but for his record did not look like a speedster, but those who saw him on Saturday last know what he is capable of. Needless to add, the pony will be watched from now on.

Chinese football fans will be pleased to see that the China Athletic Association are now heading the senior division of the Hong Kong Football League. They have the same number of points as the Borderers, but with two matches in hand are in a far better position. South China and Royal Navy are both within striking distance, but I think the Athletics will win through eventually, in spite of a poor start earlier in the season. The Police have only managed to obtain a single point in ten games, and it looks as if they will eventually come out last, a position which most followers of the game foresee a few weeks ago.

The K.O.S.B. are miles ahead of the league programme in the second division, having played 23 games to date, while others are still in the regions of 15 and 16. In this league, the South China "A" are still unbeaten, and look as if they are going to annex the honours eventually. It seems that the season will prove an all-Chinese season, as two Chinese teams are now in the best positions in the two leagues.

In the Sunday Herald Competition, China accounted for Portugal and Scotland for England, as forecasted. The match between China and Scotland will prove a good tussle, but I fancy the Chinese will win, because they are a much better team all round. However, Scotland can be relied on to give the Chinese a good run for their money, and on the whole those who turn up to watch the match will be disappointed.

(Continued on next column.)

SATURDAY'S BOXING

EWIN AND CRICHTON TO MEET IN TITLE BOUT.

The announcement that A.B. Ewin, of H.M.S. Kent, and A.B. Jock Crichton, H.M.S. Cornwall, are to battle for the Middleweight Championship of the Colony must have been very welcome to local followers of the Noble Art. The fight will be over 15 rounds, and will take place on January 4 at the Theatre Royal.

Crichton and Ewin are two of the best men at their weight ever seen in the Far East. Ewin has not been beaten for over two years, and indeed, it has been difficult to find opponents for him. Crichton gave a very impressive display at the last tournament of the Hong Kong Boxing Association, though the opposition was not too strong. It can be said with safety that he has never been really tried out in this Colony, though it is certain that he will be extended to the full when he meets Ewin. Crichton is strongly fancied in some quarters to beat Ewin but the latter is in fine fettle just now, and feels he can hand the "sleeping draught" across to Crichton.

In any case a capital fight should be seen, as both these lads can "mix it". There will be two 10-round Welter-weight contests. The first will be between Stoker Godden, of H.M.S. Cornwall, and Marine Fraser, of the Tamar. Godden is a new-comer, and a clever boxer with a good record. Fraser is well known to local fight-fans, and has appeared on practically every programme for a long time.

The other battle will be between "Nobby" Hall, of the Hermes, and Stoker Sacker, of the Cornwall. Both men are in the championship class, and while the former has met with much success in the Manila rings with his aggressive style, the latter also has a good reputation, having fought in Shanghai, where he always gave boxing fans their money's worth.

In a six-round light heavy-weight scrap, Sgt. Hay, of the Hong Kong Police, will have Stoker Irwin against him. Hay is a new-comer and was formerly in the Guards Brigade, while Irwin is a game fighter who is reputed to carry a wicked right. A good fight should be seen.

The programme for the night follows:—

- 15 Rounds Middleweight Championship of the Colony.
1.—A.B. Ewin, H.M.S. Kent, v. Jock Crichton, H.M.S. Cornwall.
10 Rounds Welterweight Contest.
2.—Stoker Godden, H.M.S. Cornwall, v. Marine Fraser, H.M.S. Tamar.
3.—A.B. Hall, H.M.S. Hermes, v. Stoker Sacker, H.M.S. Cornwall.
6 Rounds Light Heavyweight Contest.
4.—Sgt. Hay, H.K. Police, v. Stoker Irwin, H.M.S. Kent.

be well rewarded, although the result appears a foregone conclusion in some quarters. The Club accounted for the Navy in the first of the triangular Army/Navy and Club Rugby games. The Club were really fortunate to come through victorious, as the Navy put up a much better game than the score suggests, and would have won had they had any luck at all. The Club are without the services of two of their best players in Wales and Stannion, who are both away from the Colony, but with Lammer, Goldmann, Bonnar, and Plummer in the side, we can rely on them to do great things. The Club/Army match should prove most interesting, and the Club should emerge with flying colours.

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Finest Selection of

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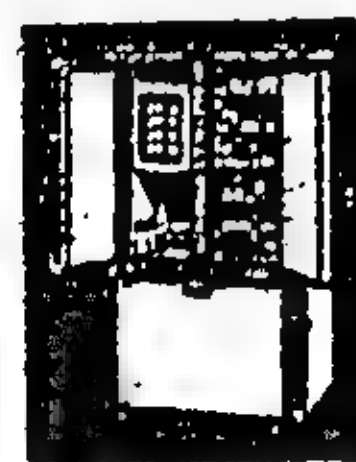
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for Three Months or Thirty Years.
The first will cost you \$3.75, and
the Annual Subscription is \$10.

ROUND THE COURTS.

ELDERLY WOMAN SNATCHER.

AN ATTACK WITH PEPPER.

At Central Magistracy yesterday, perhaps for the first time, a Chinese woman—a widow stated to be 55 years old—was charged with committing a robbery with violence on a woman recently arrived from Canton.

The case as outlined by Det. Sergeant Clark was that the complainant, Mrs. Lau Sze, was walking in Pokfulam Road, when she was attacked by the accused, who threw pepper into her eyes. A bag which the complainant held in her hand was then snatched by the woman thief, but she was arrested by a postman.

Accused, who had pleaded guilty, was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

A MISCHIEF MAKER.

A Chinese, who has made several appearances in Court since his arrest, pleaded guilty to possession of seditious pamphlets.

The man was arrested in Queen's Road East with a bundle of 738 leaflets on December 9, the second anniversary of the "Red" disturbance in Canton.

Defendant was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

AN ELUSIVE THIEF.

At Kowloon Magistracy, a story was told of how a man escaped from custody twice, the second time from the charge room. Defendant was charged with stealing 15 bars of iron from a contractor's shed; to which he pleaded guilty.

Sergeant Jessop told the Magistrate that defendant was arrested on the morning of December 23 by a detective, but he bit the policeman's finger and escaped. He was subsequently arrested by an Indian constable and put in the cells. Later he was brought to the charge room, and he bolted while nobody was looking. He was seen again at Yau-mai on December 28 and arrested.

Defendant was sentenced to six months' hard labour.

THEFT FROM SHIPS.

The recent theft from the Italian warship served to show the difficulty of catching the actual thieves even when stolen articles have been recovered.

A man was charged with unlawful possession of a swivel suspected to have been stolen from a ship. The man admitted the theft, but it had not been possible to find out where he stole it. A remark was made by the Magistrate that the removal of such an article might render a ship's chain ineffective.

Defendant was fined \$10, or fourteen days' hard labour.

MINOR KOWLOON CASES.

Two men who had a fight on board a lighter over a rope were both bound over. One of them, who attacked the other with a chopper, and wounded him in the back, was fined \$25 in addition.

Larceny of two sacks of papaya fruit from a garden on the Castle Peak Road was met with a fine of \$10 for the Chinese who was caught with the sacks on his shoulder.

CHAUFFEUR AND OWNER'S DAUGHTER.

ALLOWED HER TO TAKE
THE WHEEL.

The driver of private car No. 311 was summoned before Mr. T. S. Whyte Smith at Kowloon Magistracy yesterday, for allowing an unlicensed person to drive the car in Kowloon Tong. The owner of the car and his daughter were also summoned for driving without a license. The driver appeared in Court and pleaded guilty to all three summonses. He explained the owner and his daughter were away from the Colony.

Sub Inspector Nicol pointed out to the Magistrate that it was most probable that the driver had been instructed by his owner to allow the daughter to drive and couldn't very well refuse. He asked his Worship to impose only a nominal fine if he wanted to get another job. Car owners usually rang up to the Traffic Office for a driver's record before engaging him.

The Magistrate remarked that he would arrange it so that the driver's record was not injured, and registered a caution on the first summons. The owner and his daughter were both fined \$10 respectively.

FUNERAL OF MISS ADA O'DELL.

POPULAR TEACHER AT
DIOCESAN GIRLS'
SCHOOL.

We regret to report the death of Miss Ada Lillian O'Dell, sister of Mrs. Lionel Lammert, in the Matilda Hospital at 5.30 a.m. yesterday. The funeral took place in the afternoon and a very large number of wreaths were sent and many friends were present in the cemetery.

Miss O'Dell came to Hong Kong with Mrs. L. Lammert seven years ago, and two years ago joined the teaching staff of the Diocesan Girls' School where she was loved and respected by both pupils and staff. Miss O'Dell was known as a most enthusiastic teacher unsparing of her own health in the exercise of her profession, and her loss will be no less keenly felt by the School than by her relatives.

Never very robust, Miss O'Dell contracted gonorrhea in a malignant form and was taken to the Matilda Hospital about five weeks ago. She seemed very cheerful on Christmas Day and entered into the spirit of the Christmas party given by the patients to their friends. She became very ill over the week-end and died yesterday morning at the early age of 31.

The deepest sympathy will be extended to Mr. and Mrs. Lammert in their sad loss and to the parents of the late Miss O'Dell, who live in Bedford, England.

THE FUNERAL.

The funeral took place at the Protestant Cemetery, Happy Valley yesterday evening, the Rev. W. W. Rogers officiating. Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Lammert (brother-in-law and sister), Mr. G. P. Lammert and Mr. H. A. Lammert were chief mourners. Other present were Miss H. D. Sawyer, Headmistress of the Diocesan Girls' School, Mrs. C. B. Shann, Miss Walters, Miss Wentworth, Miss Bedford, Miss Mason, Miss Taylor, Miss Clark and Mrs. Pearce. Mr. and Mrs. R. Baldwin, Mr. A. G. W. Tickle, Mr. C. R. M. Young, and Captain C. B. Riggs, Mr. J. A. M. Grace and Mr. J. Hennessey Seth.

Among the floral tributes were the following—"Dad and Mum," "Florence and Lionel," "Elsie and Arthur," "Frank and Ida," "Bert, Florence and Alfred," "Elsie, Ernie, Isa and Margery," "Tom and Mary," "Percy and Nellie," "Rene and Bertie," "Maud and Frank," "Charlie and Alice," "George, Geoffrey and Eileen." Others were from the Diocesan Girls' School Resident Staff, Diocesan Girls' School Day Staff, from Class Eight, Miss Drury and Sisters at the Matilda Hospital, Mak Tat and Mak Pak Ting, Miss H. D. Sawyer, Misses E. L. and E. I. Butalia, Nancy McNeillie, Mrs. K. McIntyre, Estelle Le Maître, Miss E. C. and K. Murphy, Mrs. D. K. Blair and Miss Blair, Dorothy Razavet, Miss M. C. Bedford, Mrs. A. Stephen Mitchell, Winifred M. Sutton, Miss D. Stone, Mrs. and Miss Gill, Mrs. M. Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. R. Pestonji and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Farrell, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Birch, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. W. Nash, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Christie, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. M. de Grace, Dr. and Mrs. Lawson (Singapore), Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Seth, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. M. Young, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Hunt, Capt. and Mrs. C. R. Riggs and Muriel, Rev. and Mrs. W. W. Rogers, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Robinson and Bonnie, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Seth, Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Abraham, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. C. Burnett, Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Cave, Mr. and Mrs. F. X. V. Ribeiro and Miss Angelina, Mr. and Miss P. T. Farrell.

Mr. J. F. Gross, Mr. A. W. Tickle, Mr. A. Nissim, Harold Seth.

£400,000 LEGACY FOR MURDERER.

NATHAN LEOPOLD MAY BUY
HIS FREEDOM.

People who know what money will do in the United States are asking whether the fortune of £400,000 inherited by Nathan Leopold from his father will enable the young murderer to regain his freedom as money did for Harry Thaw. Leopold and Richard Loeb, both undergraduates, murdered Bobbie Franks, a schoolboy, in 1924, because they wanted a thrill.

No expense was spared to save them from execution, and, thanks to their lawyer, Mr. Clarence Darrow, they received a life sentence for murder and ninety-nine years for kidnapping.

It is now claimed that, by an error in Leopold's papers, he is serving the sentences concurrently. A life sentence is legally longer than ninety-nine years, and as he can obtain remission for good conduct, Leopold can apply for release in 1935.

Leopold has been studying for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy since he has been in gaol, but no college will grant him the diploma without a year's residence.

He was concerned in a prison-breaking, but escaped punishment respectively.

HONG KONG POLICE RESERVE.

[ORDERS BY HON. MR. J. D. G. WOLFE,
C.M.G., CAPTAIN SUPERINTEN-
DENT OF POLICE.]

Chinese Company.

Squad Drill.—There will be no squad drill for recruits on Thursday, January 2, 1930.

New Territories Agricultural Show 1930.—Members of the Chinese Company detailed for duty at the Agricultural Show on Saturday and Sunday, January 4 and 5, will report on both days as follows:—

First shift men will draw arms, caps (if required) and railway ticket at the Central Police Station at 9.15 a.m. sharp, and will board the 10 a.m. train at Kowloon, returning from Sheung Shui by the 3.55 p.m. train.

Second shift men will draw arms, caps (if required) and railway ticket at the Central Police Station at 12.30 p.m. sharp, and will board the 1.15 p.m. train at Kowloon, returning from Sheung Shui by the 5.54 p.m. train.

Dress:—Blue uniform, cap with white cover, belt (without frog), whistle and truncheon. Black cap cover also had better be carried. All those in possession of badge shall carry same, as arms will only be issued to trained men.

Tiffin and tea for the first and second shift men, respectively will be provided at Sheung Shui.

Indian Company.

Parade.—All ranks of the Indian Company will parade at Police Headquarters on Tuesday, January 1, for drill under Police Sergeant R. J. Hunt. Fall in at 5.30 p.m. sharp. Dress: Winter uniform, belt and cap with white cover. No member may be absent from this parade without leave from the Company Commander.

Flying Squad.

The next weekly instructional patrol of the Kowloon Section will take place on Tuesday, January 7. Fall in at the Tsim-tai-tai Fire Brigade Station at 3.30 p.m. sharp. Dress: Winter uniform and cap with white cover.

The next weekly instructional patrol of the Hong Kong Section will take place on Friday, January 19. Fall in at the Central Police Station at 9.15 p.m. sharp. Dress: Winter uniform and cap with white cover.

Sharpshooters' Company.

STENOGRAPH.—Constables R402 Basil S. M. Veliki and R426 A. Winch have been taken on the strength of the Sharpshooters' Company as from December 23 and 24 respectively.

REVOLVER PRACTICE.—All members of the Company are reminded of the regular Revolver Practice to be held on Sunday, January 5, at the Kennedy Road Range, at 10 a.m. Inspection of rifles and revolvers will take place. All members will bring their rifles, revolvers, belts and holsters. Uniform optional. (Ed.) W. Kest, A.S.P., Adjutant.

Hong Kong, Dec. 30, 1929.

TIGERS IN F.M.S.

ADVENTURE IN PERAK JUNGLE.

[FROM A CORRESPONDENT TO THE
"STRAITS TIMES."]

Ipoh, Dec. 30.
An extraordinary adventure with a tiger befell Mr. C. W. Ford, of Sukur Estate. He accompanied a gang of coolies who went out to cut a path through heavy bluker on a steep hill.

While proceeding in single file a tiger sprang out and knocked over the leading coolie, over whom he stood growling aggressively. Mr. Ford and the Chinese contractor were a few feet behind and saw the man lying on his back and keeping the tiger's head away by swinging a parang.

Mr. Ford and the others tried to frighten the tiger by shouting, whereupon it sprang towards them. Mr. Ford instinctively leaped to the nearest tree up which he scrambled, closely followed by the contractor. The tree being a small one was unable to bear their weight and bent over when the contractor got about six feet above the ground.

The tiger crouched a few yards away, growling. In the meantime the coolie who had previously been knocked down made good his escape. After an interval Mr. Ford decided to descend and make a dash for liberty. The tiger, beyond growling, made no attempt to touch them, consequently the whole party escaped.

It is believed that the animal was a female and was keeping guard over her cubs in a lair nearby, which would explain her unwillingness to leave the spot.

Singapore's Tiger.

A tiger was seen by a labourer who was working at the Naval Base Singapore some days ago. Considerable excitement exists in the Upper Serangoon District, particularly since pug marks were discovered in a compound in Flower Road this week. The marks were small and suggested that the tiger is a young one.

REVIEW OF THE SHARE MARKET.

GENERAL REVIVAL MARKS SECOND HALF OF THE YEAR.

REASONS FOR RENEWED INTEREST.

The effects of the disastrous June Settlement in 1929 on the local share-market took exactly four years to wear off. The subsequent depression and inactivity lasted until June this year, when the market shook off its lethargy and became gradually enlivened until, at the close of the year, we find that almost all those who had taken an interest in the doings of the local "Bulldozer" in former years are again in touch with the market. Conditions in general, considering all things, are in a highly satisfactory state. The year 1929, therefore, will go down in the annals of the local exchanges as an outstanding one, in that it proved to be the turning-point of a slump which lasted four years, and left much havoc in its train.

For the first six months of the present year very little was done in the way of cash business, and practically nothing at all in the way of forward business. After the month of June, however, inquiries began to come in from all sides, and gradually the volume of cash business increased. Prices went up as a consequence, and forward business again made its appearance in the market. Several factors are responsible for this revival, and these are traced in detail in the review of the activities of the share market given below.

A Wet Blanket.

The announcement at the close of 1929 of the Government's intention to introduce a new Stamp Ordinance acted as a wet blanket on local sharebrokers, who had been trying during the past three years to prevent the market from going to pieces. As a result of the subsequent withdrawal of this Ordinance (for the time being at least) their efforts at restoring the market to a state of normalcy were renewed and, happily for the brokers, several months later they found the first fruits of their endeavours making an appearance.

After three years the outstanding accounts and the general state of chaos caused by the upheaval in June, 1929, had been gradually straightened out. True, there are still large sums outstanding, but since there is no hope whatever of any of these accounts ever being met, brokers generally have taken things philosophically. Although these outstanding have not been actually written off, they are not placed on any higher footing than the category of doubtful debts. Consequently, at the beginning of this year, brokers who were still on the market had a far better idea of their own standing than they did, say, at the beginning of 1926, 1927 and 1928. This was a fortunate circumstance, for it made everyone cautious not to exceed their commitments, and later in the year, although forward business was indulged in, caution was the keynote, and gambling in the real sense of the word was reduced to a minimum.

Flooded With Money.

The Hong Kong market, due to the absence of investments in the share market for three years or more, was flooded with money. Wealthy Chinese temporarily seeking refuge in the Colony had, during the period of depression on the Right, allowed their money to remain idle in the banks. Others, who, owing to the continued civil warfare in China, have been driven either to invest in property, or allowed their money to remain idle. By about the middle of the year this affluent section of the community came into the market to buy, and a slight rise all round was noted. This alone would not have helped the market to regain its old standing, and but for an unexpected circumstance, the market would have remained much where it was.

When the great crash came in 1929 hundreds of shares were left in the hands of Chinese bankers and others who make a profit out of advancing money against scrip. Most of these people had been advancing from 60 to 80 per cent. of the current share value. Naturally a rise in the share market created a stir in these circles. Many who were left with shares had been buying more at cheap prices to reduce their average, and the slight rise in the market is anxiously watched. Others had been waiting until the market shows some sign of life before "averaging" and hence, when rates began to go upward in the summer, additional interest in the share market came from Chinese bankers and moneylenders.

Profit-Taking.

There were still others who, during the years of depression, had picked up cheap parcels of shares from time to time. These, of course, had been waiting for a recovery, and so, while there were plenty of buyers of cheap

shares on the market, there were also plenty of sellers. Yet another class of speculators made an appearance. These resorted to profit-taking tactics, buying one day and getting out a few days later with a small profit. This they were able to do on a strong market which showed an upward tendency from day to day.

Business With Shanghai.

It was about this time, that news came through to the Colony of the prosperous state of the Ewo Cotton Mills, and interest extended from Hong Kong shares to Shanghai. Hitherto business between Hong Kong and Shanghai had been absolutely one-sided—Hong Kong selling some of its cheap shares to buyers in Shanghai who had confidence in the Hong Kong market. When it was learned that there was likely to be a big rise in Ewo's, plenty of money was found among local investors for this Shanghai stock.

The volume of forward business between Hong Kong and Shanghai also grew, and as the rise of price in Ewo's became rapid, there were not a few who took a chance and sold short. Cash buyers often found their holdings had appreciated several points on arrival of their scrip and promptly sold again, so that since the first news of the prosperous state of the Mills reached Hong Kong, a continual business in cash and forward shares was transacted between the two ports, which led to what might be described as a revival of business relationship between Hong Kong and Shanghai brokers.

Another Incentive.

Another incentive to investment in local shares was news of the possible amalgamation of the Hong Kong Electric Company and the China Light and Power Company. Great interest was shown in this report by the community, and while there were a number who believed that such a deal was coming off, there were an equally large number who felt that such a development would not take place. Hence the demand which set in for China Light shares grew to a point when all inquiries were met by non-believers in the amalgamation rumour.

China Lights, in spite of the breaking-off of negotiations for amalgamation, have gone up, this being no doubt due to the good prospects of the Company, and possibly also to the offering of new shares to shareholders at par.

The Falling Dollar.

Yet another factor contributed to the prosperity of the share market, this being the falling dollar, which led to a number of investors overseas taking the opportunity of buying Hong Kong shares. All the lower-priced stocks are followed by investors from abroad, but particularly Banks and Unions, and a fall in the dollar usually brings a good deal of money into Hong Kong for investment in these stocks. Banks and Unions went up appreciably just before the end of the year, and quite a big business was recorded in these stocks during that period.

Improved Business.

Other local stocks which were largely handled were Trams, Hotels, Wharves, and Lands. The inquiries for Trams were certainly due to better business by the Company, the vast crowds patronising the cars during the summer months being one reason leading speculators to figure on a better year. Then there was a possibility of some arrangement being arrived at with competitors over bus routes, and this was another cause of shares changing hands. Rumours of the sale of the Majestic Hotel in Shanghai caused a demand for Hotels, and although the actual sale was not made publicly known until about a fortnight ago, yet many buyers were on the market some time prior to the sale, possibly armed with some information of the impending deal. Wharves and Lands are sound stocks, and naturally came in for a share of the prosperity that marked most of the local stocks.

Cements, a favourite with the Chinese, enjoyed a small boom all on their own, and have been going up during the last six months. Shipping and Dock shares, however, have shown little improvement, this being no doubt due to the bad state of shipping generally.

Forward Business.

Forward business throughout the year has been on a small scale except for the December Settlement, which was fairly heavy, but which—be it noted—is nowhere like the huge settlements of pre-Strike days. Speculation in share prices has been restricted, due to the cautious attitude of the brokers and the market. The latter are still (Continued at foot of next column.)

THE PAPER TRADE.

"WORST YEAR SINCE 1920."

Business in paper in Hong Kong and South China is usually confined to White and Coloured M/G Cap, Newsprint, and Sup./Cal. Printings. The year opened with most disappointing results in these particular grades, but particularly in White and Coloured Caps, due to many orders having been placed during the second half of 1928 with certain mills for shipment November/January last.

Many of these orders, however, could not be despatched before March, owing to the very severe winter in Northern Europe, causing many shipping ports and rivers to become ice-bound. When shipments were eventually despatched an enormous quantity of paper arrived in Hong Kong at about the same time, causing heavy stocks. Added to this, Coloured Cap paper in certain sizes and weights, arriving too late for the particular season for which such quantities are used, meant that weak holders were forced to drop their prices to below home cost for want of ready cash.

Following this state of affairs the lifting of the boycott by China against Japan released an enormous quantity of paper which had been stored in Hong Kong and elsewhere in South China, for several months and prices in consequence further weakened.

Selling Below Cost.

Many importers were forced to sell a large portion of their holdings at below actual cost. White Cap and Newsprint suffered most, and in fact for several months these grades could be had locally at anywhere up to 15 per cent. below imported figures. M/G Sulphite papers generally were also offered freely at about 10 to 15 per cent. below imported prices, but even then buyers were not tempted to buy until the latter part of the year, when "spot" cargo took a slight upward turn, due to the fall in rate of exchange. This rise, however, was not altogether in sympathy with the heavy drop in exchange, as prices for certain grades of paper are still being offered in local currency at below home prices, due to such grades having been imported and paid for when exchange was ruling at over 1s. 11d.

Very Few Orders.

The result is that very few orders have been placed during the latter part of this year. While the turnover this year may not appear to be altogether low, it must be remembered that certain large shipments—particularly during the first half of the year—are in execution of orders placed during the latter part of 1928, and which home suppliers in the majority of cases were not prepared to cancel.

Business actually done in 1929 in new orders has been extremely small. A particularly unfortunate feature of the paper trade of this Colony during the year has been the heavy loss caused to a very reputable Chinese firm. It is alleged that a person in Europe fraudulently negotiated documents through a Bank on forged bills of lading, the amount involved being very considerable.

To sum up the situation for 1929, it may be said that this is the worst year Hong Kong has experienced since the great trade depression of 1920, due to abnormal conditions, political disturbances, heavy stocks in the market, and the low rate of exchange.

Refusing to advance money on certain shares, and on other stocks are giving advances of 50 or 60 per cent., thus allowing themselves wide margins for eventualities. There has been a very trivial one, so that there has been no setback whatever to the prosperity which began in the middle of the summer of 1929.

As an instance of the sincerity of the brokers in their efforts to put the share market on a sound basis, and to eliminate wild speculation as much as possible, a suggestion is afoot to form a clearing-house to facilitate future settlements. This would have the effect of making settlements simpler, and might possibly prevent "dud" cheques being circulated.

The news of the serious difficulties attending the December settlement in this Colony with interest, but not with concern, and it is certain that the revival of business in the share market has not in any way been affected by the news. Although the year has been a good one for brokers, and it may be confidently hoped that the coming year will be a still more prosperous period.

BAMBOO & RATTAN.

HONG KONG'S STRONG POSITION.

Several million dollars' worth of rattan furniture, cane and bamboo ware were exported from Hong Kong to various parts of the world during the year 1929.

One of the principal dealers in these lines told a *Daily Press* representative that business this year has been excellent, and shows an increase of 35 per cent. over the sales of 1928, this being due to favourable exchange and the comparatively cheap prices quoted by local manufacturers as compared with prices asked elsewhere. All the rattan and bamboo were exported from Hong Kong is manufactured locally, and quality compares very well with other makes.

Cane.

Some 38,000 bales of cane were shipped from Hong Kong this year, of which total the United States absorbed 11,000 bales. Central Europe took up even more, being responsible for 13,000 bales, but Britain was the heaviest buyer of all, taking up no less than 15,000 bales.

The export of cane alone represents about a million dollars' worth of business, and there is every prospect of there being even a bigger turnover next year.

Bamboo-ware.

The United States are practically the only buyers of bamboo-ware, and no less than 11,000 bales valued at \$400,000 (free of freight) was shipped during 1929 to America. Many varieties of fancy ware and baskets are made from bamboo and these find a ready market in the U.S.A. It is reported that several American firms have even gone to the length of establishing their own factories in Hong Kong, and though this is possibly not altogether true, it is certain that the output of some of the smaller firms has been fully booked for a long time ahead.

Rattan.

In the rattan business America again appears to be almost the sole buyer, giving the Colony business estimated at about \$300,000, represented by 11,000 bales. There has been little fluctuation in price, and in view of the steady demand it is fully anticipated that business in this line for 1930 will be as strong as it has been in the present year.

Furniture.

Rattan and cane furniture apparently is much admired the world over, as record shipments have been made in 1929 to America, Europe, and Australia. Statistics show that America is the heaviest buyer, purchases amounting to a quarter of a million dollars. In all, it is estimated that 7,000 bales—containing about 30,000 pieces of chairs, settees and tables, lamp and flower stands, flower-baskets, and blinds—were shipped. America, Australia and South Africa have purchased about 10,000 pieces of furniture made from rattan and cane, valued at about \$80,000. Europe also bought a small quantity, but nothing like the amount taken up by America and Australia and South Africa.

THE SUGAR TRADE.

MANY OBSTACLES TO BUSINESS.

PRICES MAINTAINED.

Sugar merchants report an unsatisfactory year for 1929, although there was not a big drop in prices. The lack of adequate banking and shipping facilities, coupled with the absence of demand from consuming centres, are some of the reasons why the sugar trade has such a bad year to record. Merchants are most anxious to reduce their margin of profit to retain business, but declare they find themselves up against too heavy a handicap.

Regarding shipping facilities, no longer is it possible to take delivery ex-ships in quantities of less than 500 bags at a time. This question has been already dealt with in the *Daily Press*, and involves further expenditure, in the case of small shipments, in the way of godown and lighter charges and cooie hire.

Regarding banking facilities, the introduction of a new charge by the year of a minimum of 1 per cent. on irrevocable credits without recourse is an additional hardship to sugar merchants. Added to this there have been some big failures in the trade during the year, and this has resulted in many sugar merchants being involved to a greater or lesser extent. Further, the civil war had the effect of reducing orders from Canton and the interior, and from Swatow and other consuming centres.

Java sugar is by far the most prominent commodity in this market, although some sugar comes from Formosa. The total value of Java sugar imported into Hong Kong for the year is between \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000, and it is understood that most of this has been sold again, there being very little stock left over at the close of the year, prices are not going up.

Money and Markets

HONG KONG TRADE.

PIECE-GOODS BUSINESS STILL DULL.

The fortnightly report of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce contain the following references to:—

Cotton Piece Goods and Fancy Cotton Goods.

The following reports have been received:—

The market has been quiet during the last two weeks and clearances have been on a very small scale. Enquiries for White Shirtings have not resulted in new business as dealers lack confidence with the continued decline in exchange. Manchester prices remain about the same with manufacturers eager for work and if firm offers could be obtained, they would probably accept lower prices. Japanese goods, such as Printed Cotton Jeans and Art Silk and Cotton Broadcades appear to be moving in larger quantities but when the present stocks are exhausted, replacing costs are likely to be considerably higher and dealers are not making forward purchases.

There is no sign whatever of any activity in the market and new business is impossible under existing conditions. The further decline in Sterling Exchange since last reporting here widens the already wide disparity existing between silver parity of present replacing costs as compared with current local silver selling rates.

Latest Cotton quotations to hand are those of 27th instant Mid. Am. Spot 9.51d. Eg. Sakel, 14.20d.

Woolens.

A few small repeat-order lines for February shipment are again reported but apart from these isolated transactions, no new business in Woolens have been done. Clearances of woolens have been very limited since the recent fighting on the West River and the local market has been very quiet.

No interest is being taken by the dealers in fresh purchases at present and the further drop in exchange makes orders for July/Aug. shipment appear very remote.

[Daily Share Quotations will be found on page 13 of this issue.]

ACCOUNTS AND REGISTRATION.

A HALL-MARK WANTED.

The annual dinner of the Manchester and District Centre of the London Association of Accountants took place at the Queen's Hotel, Manchester, last month. Mr. W. Williamson, chairman of the centre, presided.

Mr. Toole, M.P., who proposed the chief toast, said he thought the time had arrived when all accountants should be registered. If they, or any other association, was prepared to take steps to press forward their desire for registration, there were some of those present who would be delighted to give them all the help they could. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. T. A. Gillespie, president of the London Association of Accountants, after referring to his visit with other members of the association to the International Congress of Accountants this year in New York, went on to point out that the association was not in favour of closing the door of the profession to any boy or girl who had had five years' accountancy experience and had passed the necessary accountancy tests. (Hear, hear.) They were in favour of establishing a register. It was coming, and must come, and it was the only thing that would not only protect the public but the incoming accountant. If the necessary legislation was delayed difficulties would be created.

Mr. E. B. Fielden, M.P., responding for "The Houses of Parliament," proposed by Mr. C. V. Jarvis, said that people were required who were registered as properly equipped to advise the community on different matters, and he was entirely in favour of giving by Parliamentary sanction full authority to those bodies properly constituted to carry out examinations as to knowledge and character. There was, however, one danger which did not apply only to one association or profession, and it was that those trying for admission should be turned down not because they could not pass the examinations or had not character but because the profession was overcrowded, and examinations might take the direction of exclusion. What the community wanted was a hall-mark that a man had passed an examination to show, not that he was not a scoundrel, but that he really knew his job. (Hear, hear.)

CANTON TRADE DURING 1929.

FEW PROFITS AND MANY LOSSES!

The following review of Canton's trade has been published by the Canton vernacular Press. The trade conditions in the city are generally disappointing as a result of the continual warfare in the Province.

Piece Goods.—The market for foreign piece goods is normal. There has been a growing demand for Japanese goods as their prices are cheap and owing to foreign competition, Chinese piece goods did not sell well this year. Chinese weaving factories are making no profits. Because of the higher prices of cotton yards and of foreign dyes due to the high exchange rate for Hong Kong money, prices had to be raised and as a result, demand has fallen away badly.

Silks.—Merchants dealing in silk piece goods are also doing badly. The Chinese have developed a fondness for foreign woollens and velvet, and Chinese silk has not been in demand.

Tea.—Tea merchants are doing very badly. Owing to the competition of Japan and Ceylon tea, Chinese tea merchants have almost lost their market abroad. The amount of tea exported to meet the requirements of overseas Chinese has fallen off considerably.

Match Making.—Fifteen match factories in Canton have closed down while those still operating are scarcely able to carry on. The importation of large quantities of Swedish matches coupled with the heavy taxes imposed by the Canton authorities has practically killed business.

Chinese Native Banking.—Business of Chinese native banks was not good this year, but a little better than last. Money changers are doing fairly well.

Gold Ornaments.—Goldsmiths complain that the war has affected their business considerably. The unusually high price of gold is another contributory cause of the decline of this business.

Rice.—Business done by wholesalers is not bad and better than last year. Some of them make profits. Retail merchants were doing fairly well during the first half of the year, but business during the latter months was disappointing.

Fire-Wood.—The fire-wood supply comes from the East, West and North River districts. On account of the wars, communication between Canton and the river districts was often interrupted and only limited quantities of firewood were imported.

Salt.—A great deal of salt has been produced this year on account of the drought. Prices were low owing to over-supply and the merchants made no profits.

THE CHANGING GOLD STANDARD.

DISAPPOINTING PROGRESS OF CONTROL.

Mr. O. R. Hobson, editor-in-chief of the *Financial News*, in a lecture to the Incorporated Accountants' Students' Society of London on the changing gold standard, last month, said the virtual abandonment of gold coinage throughout the world was induced by considerations of economy in the use of gold, but in a sense it really cut at the underlying foundations of the gold standard. Gold, while remaining a measure of value, had largely ceased to be a medium of exchange.

A second fundamental change was the world's new idea that the gold standard must not be free to work as it liked but be controlled so as to avoid considerable changes in its power of purchasing commodities. The shattering effect of the war on monetary systems and commodity prices had directed attention to the hardships which could arise from a dislocation of established price levels, and though there was a tendency to exaggerate both the capacity of monetary control to maintain a stable price level and the inherent desirability of stability, there was no disagreement with the proposition that monetary control ought to have, as a principal object, reasonable stability of prices.

The attainment of even this limited objective was contingent upon co-operation between the leading gold standard countries. Some central banks had tried to move along the path of international co-operation indicated at the economic conference in Genoa in 1922, but after seven years the progress made was disappointing. It was disappointing in two respects. The first was that the Federal Reserve Board had been unable to control American credit and direct its use, and the second was the unwillingness of certain European countries to co-operate in making the emergency arising out of that failure.

CHARGE AGAINST POLICE SERGEANT.

VERY UNSATISFACTORY EVIDENCE.

CASE DISMISSED.

Further witnesses for the prosecution were called, and evidence given for the defence, when the case against a Shantung police sergeant of assault on an old woman was resumed before Mr. E. W. Hamilton at Central Magistracy yesterday.

At the previous hearing, a charge of manslaughter brought against the defendant was amended to one of causing grievous bodily harm to the old woman, who died in hospital. Medical evidence was given to the effect that the cause of death was pneumonia.

Mr. L. R. Andrews (Assistant Crown Solicitor) prosecuted and F. C. E. Randall appeared for the defence.

The deceased woman's daughter, and a shoemaker living at the same house in Tung Street, gave evidence of being roused from sleep at 1 a.m. on December 9, and seeing the defendant strike the old woman a blow with the fist, and kick her in the stomach. The witnesses then proceeded to give a confused account of an earlier incident in the street between the deceased woman's son and a young woman, but the Magistrate ordered them to stand down.

Evidence for Defence.

Mr. Randall submitted that he had no case to answer, but he would call evidence for the defence in order to clear the defendant's character.

The defendant said that he received a complaint from a young woman that she had been molested by a man (the deceased woman's son), who had run into a lane. Witness followed and arrested the man, who was pointed out by the complainant. The man offered resistance, but with the assistance of an Indian constable, he was taken to the station. An old woman later came in and accused witness of assaulting her.

In cross-examination witness said that the evidence given by the two earlier witnesses, that they had seen him strike the deceased woman, was entirely false. Corroborative evidence was given by the Indian constable, and the young woman complainant, also stated that she did not see the defendant strike or kick anyone.

Case for Prosecution Fails.

At this stage Mr. Andrews said that he did not wish to proceed with the depositions of the deceased woman, as he did not think there would be anything to add to the evidence already given by his witnesses.

His Worship commented on the unsatisfactory nature of the evidence against the defendant. There was no evidence that he had kicked the deceased woman, and he was accordingly discharged.

WELSHMAN'S HOPE OF A BARGAIN.

A CAR FOR "210 DOWN."

The representative of a big British firm at the Motor Show at Olympia has been telling the following story: "On Wednesday," he said, "a man who looked as though he had not two half-pennies to rub together asked to see a car. Its price was £200.

"After looking over it carefully, he said that he would buy it. When we explained the price to him he was incredulous. He had come all the way from Wales with about ten pounds in his pocket, expecting to buy a car. Apparently he had seen an advertisement which read, 'You can have this car for £210.' Actually the advertisement said £210 down and monthly instalments until the car was paid for."

"Remarkable incidents occur here every day," said another salesman. He said that an elderly woman, poorly dressed, and carrying a shabby umbrella, went up to a stand and asked to see a sports car in the neighbourhood of five hundred pounds. The salesman, with little hope of doing any business, patiently showed her the car, explained the details at length, and was about to turn to a man who appeared to be keenly interested in the model, when the woman said, "I think I will have this one."

"Still doubtful," the salesman said, "Yes, madam." The next moment the woman had produced a good-sized handbag, from which she extracted a large bundle of 25 notes, a proceeding which almost dumfounded the salesman. "I have been saving up for this for 15 years," she said simply. "You see, my son was killed in the war, so I determined to buy my grandson a car when he turned 21." The woman came from a Yorkshire village and had travelled alone, intending to make the purchase a surprise.

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EAST INDIES.

SOUTH BOUND.

| STREAMERS | FROM | EXPECTED ON OR ABOUT | WILL LEAVE ON OR ABOUT | FOR |
|------------|--------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| TJILEBOET | AMOT | In Port | 31st Dec. | MANILA, M'KRAE & SOERABAYA |
| TJIKEMBANG | S'hai & AMOT | In Port | 1st Jan. | BATAVIA |
| TJIKARANG | S'hai & AMOT | 8th Jan. | 11th Jan. | BATAVIA |
| TJISALAK | AMOT | 12th Jan. | 14th Jan. | MANILA, M'KRAE & SOERABAYA |
| TJIBADAK | S'hai & AMOT | 19th Jan. | 21st Jan. | MANILA, M'KRAE & SOERABAYA |
| TJISAROEK | AMOT | 26th Jan. | 28th Jan. | MANILA, M'KRAE & SOERABAYA |
| TJISONDARI | S'hai & AMOT | 3rd Feb. | 5th Feb. | MANILA, M'KRAE & SOERABAYA |

NORTH BOUND.

| STREAMERS | FROM | EXPECTED ON OR ABOUT | WILL LEAVE ON OR ABOUT | FOR |
|------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| TJIKARANG | BATAVIA | In Port | 31st Dec. | AMOT & S'hai |
| TJISALAK | JAVA, MAKASSAR | 3rd Jan. | 5th Jan. | SWATOW & AMOT |
| TJIBADAK | BATAVIA | 8th Jan. | 10th Jan. | AMOT & S'hai |
| TJISAROEK | JAVA, MAKASSAR | 15th Jan. | 17th Jan. | SWATOW & AMOT |
| TJISONDARI | BATAVIA | 22nd Jan. | 24th Jan. | AMOT & S'hai |
| TJILEBOET | JAVA, MAKASSAR | 29th Jan. | 31st Jan. | SWATOW & AMOT |
| TJIKARANG | BATAVIA | 5th Feb. | 7th Feb. | AMOT & S'hai |

JAVA.

KAMODIAN—BANDOENG—PAPANDAJAN—
GAROT—SINDANGLAJA—TOSARI—
NGAMPLANG—TJISOEROEPAN—
NONGKODJADJAR WANASARI.

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OUTWARD.

Sailings from Europe for S'hai, Japan & Northern Ports:-

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| M.V. "BURGENLAND" | due here on or about the 9th Jan. |
| S.S. "ALBERT VOEGLER" | due here on or about the 25th Jan. |
| M.V. "VOTLAND" | due here on or about the 31st Jan. |
| M.V. "RAMSES" | due here on or about the 16th Feb. |
| M.V. "DUISBURG" | due here on or about the 3rd Mar. |
| M.V. "SAUERLAND" | due here on or about the 16th Mar. |

HOMEWARD.

Sailings for Genoa, Rotterdam and Hamburg
via Manila, Singapore, Colombo & Port Said:-

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| S.S. "OLDENBURG" | sailing from here on or about the 9th Jan. |
| M.V. "EEMLAND" | sailing from here on or about the 25th Jan. |
| M.V. "BURGENLAND" | sailing from here on or about the 31st Jan. |
| S.S. "ALBERT VOEGLER" | sailing from here on or about the 16th Feb. |
| M.V. "VOTLAND" | sailing from here on or about the 3rd Mar. |
| M.V. "RAMSES" | sailing from here on or about the 16th Mar. |

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EXPECTED ARRIVALS AND MOVEMENTS.

| | |
|--|--|
| Aeneas due from Europe Feb. 11. | Tamba Maru due from Singapore Dec. 31. |
| Agia due from Europe Jan. 23. | Tatsuno Maru due from Europe Jan. 13. |
| Alti Maru due from Japan Jan. 21. | Tenryo Maru due from Shanghai Dec. 31. |
| Albert Vagler due from Europe Jan. 23. | Tilawa due from Singapore Feb. 10. |
| Aller due from Europe Dec. 31. | Tjibadak due from Java Jan. 8. |
| Altai Maru due from Japan Jan. 8. | Tjikarang arrived from Java Dec. 29. |
| Angers due from Shanghai Jan. 13. | Tjikembang due from Amoy Dec. 30. |
| Antenor due from Shanghai Jan. 22. | Tjileboet arrived from Amoy Dec. 29. |
| Augsburg due from Shanghai Jan. 20. | Tjisalak due from Java Jan. 3. |
| Awa Maru due from Japan Jan. 10. | Tjisaroea due from Java Jan. 18. |
| Benares due from Europe Feb. 7. | Tjisondari due from Java Jan. 22. |
| Benackie due from Europe Jan. 7. | Toktori Maru arrived from Japan Dec. 27. |
| Bokuyo Maru due from Singapore Jan. 23. | Viminale due from Shanghai Jan. 6. |
| Bronville due from Europe Jan. 19. | |
| Burgeland due from Europe Jan. 9. | |
| Calulu due from Australia Jan. 10. | |
| Ceylon Maru due from Japan Jan. 14. | |
| City of Hereford due from Europe Jan. 13. | |
| City of Kobe due from Europe Jan. 22. | |
| City of Mandalay due from New York Jan. 16. | |
| City of Salisbury due from New York Jan. 29. | |
| Coblentz due from Europe Jan. 17. | |
| D'Artagnan due from Shanghai Dec. 31. | |
| Danmark due from Shanghai Jan. 4. | |
| Demodocus due from Europe Jan. 26. | |
| Diomed due from Shanghai Jan. 7. | |
| Dolius due from Europe Jan. 3. | |
| Duchessa d'Aosta due from Europe Jan. 20. | |
| Durban Maru due from Singapore Jan. 10. | |
| Empress of Asia due Vancouver Jan. 4. | |
| Emp. of Canada due from Manila Jan. 2. | |
| Emp. of Russia due from Vancouver Jan. 12. | |
| Ermland due from Shanghai Jan. 23. | |
| Esquillo due from Europe Jan. 29. | |
| Franken due from Europe Jan. 25. | |
| Fulda due from Europe Feb. 11. | |
| Fushimi Maru due from Singapore Jan. 10. | |
| General Metzinger due from Europe Jan. 14. | |
| Genoa Maru due from Singapore Jan. 8. | |
| Glenamoy due from Europe Jan. 9. | |
| Glenapp due from Europe Jan. 30. | |
| Glenary due from Europe Jan. 22. | |
| Glenishane arrived from Europe Dec. 30. | |
| Hakosaki Maru due from Japan Jan. 24. | |
| Hector due from Europe Jan. 10. | |
| Hilda due from Shanghai Jan. 24. | |
| Isar due from Shanghai Jan. 6. | |
| Ixon due from Europe Jan. 7. | |
| Iyo Maru due from Japan Jan. 20. | |
| Jepore due from Japan Jan. 25. | |
| Kamakura Maru due from Japan Jan. 2. | |
| Karmala due from Europe Jan. 17. | |
| Kashmir due from Europe Jan. 25. | |
| Keemun due from Europe Feb. 4. | |
| Khiya due from Japan Jan. 17. | |
| Kidderpore due from Europe Jan. 9. | |
| Kitano Maru due from Singapore Jan. 5. | |
| Korea Maru due from Europe Jan. 13. | |
| Kumsang due from Europe Dec. 31. | |
| Lahore due from Shanghai Jan. 10. | |
| Laomedon due from Europe Jan. 25. | |
| Macedonia due from Europe Jan. 30. | |
| Mantua due from Singapore Jan. 3. | |
| Menelaus due from Europe Feb. 4. | |
| Mentor due from Europe Jan. 21. | |
| Mexico Maru due from Japan Jan. 1. | |
| Mirapore due from Japan Jan. 21. | |
| Mishima Maru due from Shanghai Dec. 31. | |
| Mito Maru due from Singapore Jan. 2. | |
| Nagano Maru due from Singapore Jan. 8. | |
| Nellore due from Manila Jan. 6. | |
| Oldenburg due from Shanghai Jan. 10. | |
| Panama due from Shanghai Jan. 22. | |
| Philoctetes due from Europe Jan. 5. | |
| Pres. Adams due from Shanghai Jan. 25. | |
| Pres. Jackson due from Shanghai Jan. 3. | |
| Pres. Madison arrived from Manila Dec. 29. | |
| Pres. McKinley due from Shanghai Jan. 17. | |
| Pres. Pierce due from Manila Jan. 6. | |
| Pres. Polk due from Shanghai Jan. 11. | |
| Pres. Taft due from Shanghai Jan. 13. | |
| Rajputana due from Shanghai Jan. 3. | |
| Remo due from Penang Jan. 2. | |
| Saarbruecken due from Shanghai Jan. 16. | |
| Shirala due from Singapore Jan. 17. | |
| Springbank due from New York Jan. 1. | |
| St. Albans due from Japan Jan. 1. | |
| Taipung due from Australia Jan. 7. | |
| Takada due from Japan Jan. 20. | |
| Taklwa due from Singapore Jan. 20. | |
| Talamba due from Japan Jan. 3. | |
| Tamsa due from Singapore Jan. 7. | |

DON'T ALTER A SAILING SHIP'S NAME.

THE MAN WHO DARED TO DO IT.

It is a legend of the sea that you may do what you like with a steamship; change her name, alter her so that her own builder would not know her—but you must not do this with a sailing ship, for she has a soul.

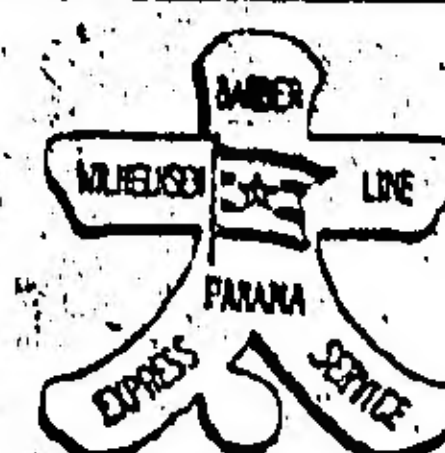
This is the tragedy of the man who did, and of the fate that befell his fleet of windjammers. The war had not ended long before, Sir William Garthwaite, owner of the Garth Line, a man with a love of the sea in his blood, betfought himself that so long as there were oceans there would be room for the sailing ship. So he bought up six of the finest windjammers, with wonderful records of service in the Cape Horn trade, but—he re-named them all, and to-day not one of them exists. The last of the line, the four-masted barque Garthpool, was wrecked off the west coast of Africa a few weeks ago.

"She Has a Soul." "Her end was what I would have wished," said Sir William Garthwaite, "she went down under her own colours on a voyage—not sold to a foreigner or handed over to the ship-breakers." "Garthpool, Garthway, Garthforce, Garthnell, Garthnoid, Garthgarry—one by one they have

(Continued on preceding column).

DAILY SHARE QUOTATIONS.

| HONG KONG STOCK EXCHANGE. | | | | SHAREBROKERS' ASSOCIATION. | | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Buyers | Sellers | Sales | Nominal | MONDAY, DEC. 30. | Buyers | Sellers | Sales | Nominal |
| | | | | Banks | | | | |
| \$1,330 | | | | H.K. Banks | \$1,335 | | | |
| | | | 219 1/2 | Do. (London) | | | | |
| | | | 218 1/2 | Chartered Banks | | | | 219 |
| | | | 230 1/2 | Mercantile Bks. "A" | | | | 234 |
| | | | 216 1/2 | Do. | | | | 215 |
| \$85 | | | | Bank of East Asia | | | | \$85 |
| | | | | Insurance | | | | |
| \$695 | | | | Canton Ins. | \$680 | | | |
| | \$3.20 | | | Underwriters | \$1.90 | | \$3.05 | |
| T160 | | | | North China | | | | T160 |
| \$360 | | | | Union Ins. | \$363 | | | |
| | | M.800 | | Yangtze Ins. | | | | \$60 |
| \$310 | | | | China Fire | \$310 | | | |
| \$516 | | | | H.K. Fire | \$516 | | | |
| | | | | Shipping | | | | |
| | | | \$95 1/2 | Douglases | \$94 | | | |
| \$37 1/2 | | | | Steamboats | | | | \$27 1/2 |
| | | | \$46 | Indos (prof.) | | | | \$50 |
| | | | \$70 | Do. (def.) | | | | \$90 |
| | | | 97/10 | Shell Transports | | | | 100/ |
| \$52 | | | | Water-boats | | | | \$21 1/2 |
| | | | | Mining | | | | |
| \$4.70 | | | | Benquets | | | | |
| | | | 55/- | Kailans | | | | 54/- |
| | | | T13.60 | Langkats (comb.) | | | | T.14 |
| | | | T.7 1/2 | Do. (single) | | | | T.9 |
| | | | T.1.30 | Explorations | | | | T.1 1/2 |
| | | | T.5 | Shanghai Loans | | | | T.2 1/2 |
| | | | \$11.20 | Raubs | \$10 | | | |
| | | | 21/- | Troch Mines | | | | |
| | | | | Docks, Wharves, Godowns, etc. | | | | |
| \$141 | | | | H.K. & K. Wharves | \$141 | | | |
| \$5.69 | | | | Providents | \$5.90 | | | |
| | \$32 1/2 | | | H.K. Docks | | \$5.85 | 70 | |
| T.101 | | | | Shanghai Docks | | | | 83 1/2 |
| | | | T.7 1/2 | New Engineerings | | | | T.9 1/2 |
| | | | T.190 | Hongkew | | | | T.7 1/2 |
| | | | | Cotton Mills | | | | |
| T16.60 | | 16 1/2 | | Ecos | T.16 | | 16 1/2 | |
| T.8 1/2 | | | T.84 | Shai C'ons (old) | | | | T.78 |
| | | | | Do. (new) | | | | T.51 |
| T9.60 | | | | Zoong Sings | | | | T9.40 |
| | | | | Lands, Hotels and Buildings | | | | |
| \$11.70 | | \$11.80 | | H.K. & S. Hotels | \$11.70 | \$11.90 | 11.90 | 25 |
| \$85 | | | | H.K. Lands | \$85 | | | |
| \$5.90 | | | T.181 | Shanghai Lands | | | | |
| | \$14 1/2 | | | H.K. Realty | \$8.70 | \$8 | | |
| \$98 | | | | Empireways | \$14 1/2 | | \$14.40 | |
| | | | | Chinese Estates | | | | |
| | | | | Public Utilities | | | | |
| \$319 | | | | Tramways | \$18.80 | | \$19 | |
| | | | \$114 | Peak Trams (old) | \$11 | | | |
| | | | \$6.05 | Do. (new) | \$54 | | | |
| \$69 1/2 | | | | Star Ferries | \$69 1/2 | | | |
| | \$19 | | | C. Lights (old) | \$18.60 | | \$18.70 | |
| | | | | Do. (new) | | | | |
| \$23 | | \$67 | | H.K. Electric | \$68 1/2 | | | |
| T.35 | | | \$2 1/2 | Macao do | | | | |
| \$15 1/2 | | | | Sandakan Lights | | | | |
| | | | | Telephones | | | | \$8 |
| | | | | China Buses | | | | |
| 10/- | | | | Tractions | | | | 9/- |
| 18/- | | | | Do. (prof.) | | | | |
| | | | | Industrials | | | | |
| | | | T.11 | Caldbeck, (ord.) | | | | |
| | | | T.10 | Macgregor (prof.) | | | | |
| | | | \$2 1/2 | Canton Ice | | | | \$2 1/2 |
| 4.10 | | 14.20 | | Cements (comb.) | \$14.10 | | 14.90 | 25 |
| 104 | | | | Do. (old) | | | | 104 |
| 7 1/2 | | | | Do. (new) | | | | \$3 1/2 |
| | \$8 | | | Ropes | \$7.20 | | | |
| | | | | China Sugars | | | | |
| | | \$27 | | Malabar Sugars | | | | \$29 |
| | | | | United Asbestos | | | | |
| | | | | Miscellaneous | | | | |
| 0.85 | | \$21 1/2 | | Dairy Farms | \$21 1/2 | | | |
| 0.80 | | | | Der A. Wings | | | | |
| | | \$27 1/2 | | Amusements | \$27 1/2 | | | |
| | | \$1.20 | | Constructions | | | | \$1.20 |
| | | | | Lape Crawford | \$2.10 | | | |
| | | | | Mackintosh | | | | |
| | | \$12 | | Nanyang Tobacco | \$4 | | | |
| | | | | Sincere (old) | \$10 1/2 | | | |
| | | | | Do. (new) | \$9 1/2 | | | |
| \$11 1/2 | | | | Watsons | \$11 1/2 | | | |
| | | | | Wm. Powell | \$11 1/2 | | | |
| | | 60/- | | B. Ind. G. & P. | 60% | | | |
| % prem. | | | | H.K. Govt. Loan | | | | \$104 |



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NEXT SAILINGS.

OUTWARDS FOR KOBE, YOKOHAMA & MOJI.

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------------|
| M.V. "REMO" | Sails on/for about the 6th Jan. |
| M.V. "ESQUILINO" | Sails on/for about the 25th Jan. |
| S.S. "ROSANDRA" | Sails on/for about the 18th Feb. |

HOMEWARDS FOR BRINDISI, VENICE AND TRIESTE.

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| M.V. "YIMINALE" | Sails hence on/for about the 2nd Jan. |
| S.S. "HILDA" | Sails hence on/for about the 25th Jan. |
| M.V. "REMO" | Sails hence on/for about the 4th Feb. |
| S.S. "DUCHESSA D'AOSTA" | Sails hence on/for about the 22nd Feb. |

NATAL LINE OF STEAMERS

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Regular Passenger and Cargo Service to South African Ports.
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CANADIAN PACIFIC

NEXT SAILINGS

| To MANILA | To THE PACIFIC COAST |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| E/ROSSIA... 5 P.M., Jan. 13th | E/CANADA... NOON, Jan. 15th |
| E/ASIA... 5 P.M., Feb. 3rd | E/ROSSIA... NOON, Feb. 12th |

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| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| SAN FRANCISCO via Shanghai, Japan Ports & Honolulu. | |
| TAIYO MARU | Sunday, 5th Jan. at 6 a.m. |
| TENYO MARU | Wednesday, 22nd Jan. |
| SEATTLE, VICTORIA via Shanghai & Japan Ports. | |
| MISHIMA MARU | Tuesday, 14th Jan. |
| IYO MARU | Tuesday, 23rd Jan. |
| LONDON, MARSEILLES, ANTWERP, ROTTERDAM, | |
| via Singapore, Penang, Colombo & Suez. | |
| FUSHIMI MARU | Saturday, 11th Jan. |
| HAZAKI MARU | Saturday, 25th Jan. |
| SYDNEY & MELBOURNE via Manila & Ports. | |
| AKI MARU | Wednesday, 22nd Jan. |
| KAGA MARU | Wednesday, 19th Feb. |
| BOMBAY via Singapore, Penang & Colombo. | |
| NAGANO MARU | Monday, 8th Jan. |
| AWA MARU | Saturday, 11th Jan. |
| SOUTH AMERICA (West Coast) via Japan, Honolulu, | |
| Los Angeles, Mexico and Panama. | |
| BOKUYO MARU | Monday, 27th Jan. |
| SOUTH AMERICA (East Coast) via Singapore, Cape | |
| Town & Ports. | |
| KAMAKURA MARU | Thursday, 2nd Jan. |
| NEW YORK, BOSTON via PANAMA. | |
| TATSUNO MARU | Tuesday, 14th Jan. |
| LIVERPOOL via Port Said, Constantinople, Genoa & | |
| Marseilles. | |
| DUBAN MARU | Friday, 10th Jan. |
| CALCUTTA via Singapore, Penang & Rangoon. | |
| AKITA MARU | Tuesday, 31st Dec. |
| SHANGHAI, KOBE & YOKOHAMA. | |
| TAMBA MARU | Wednesday, 1st Jan. |
| KITANO MARU | Tuesday, 7th Jan. |
| + Cargo only. | |
| Reduced 1st Class Extension Rates quoted between Manila and Australia. | |
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| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Three Months | \$ 3.75 |
| Six Months | \$ 7.50 |
| Twelve Months | \$15.00 |

Shipping News

Daily Statement, Waterfront News, etc.

YESTERDAY'S FREIGHT RETURNS.

IMPORTS 10,800 TONS;
THROUGH CARGO
15,600 TONS.

| Cargo | Through | Imports |
|---------------|---------|---------|
| British | 4,240 | 2,010 |
| Takada | — | — |
| Kaying | 1,300 | — |
| Haining | — | — |
| Foochow | 200 | — |
| American | — | — |
| Pres. Madison | — | — |
| Manila | 550 | 2,000 |
| German | — | — |
| Dorcy | 1,150 | 600 |
| Norwegian | — | — |
| Helios | — | — |
| Bangkok | 1,120 | — |
| Dutch | — | — |
| Tijlboet | — | — |
| Samarang | — | 240 |
| Japanese | — | — |
| Honolulu Maru | — | — |
| Bombay | 70 | 7,340 |
| Karamasan | — | — |
| Maru | — | — |
| Keelung | 500 | 2,500 |
| Totomi Maru | — | — |
| Moji | 3,500 | — |
| Lungshan Maru | — | — |
| Shanghai | 130 | 500 |
| Total | 10,850 | 15,620 |

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES.
The arrivals and departures during the period under review were as follows:—

| Arr. | Dep. |
|-----------|------|
| British | 4 |
| Japanese | 4 |
| American | 1 |
| Chinese | 0 |
| Norwegian | 2 |
| German | 1 |
| Dutch | 1 |
| Total | 13 |

ASIATIC DECK PASSENGERS.

The following vessels brought Asiatic deck passengers to the Colony during the 24 hours ended at 9 a.m. yesterday:—

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Takada (Br.) Calcutta and | 1,275 |
| Singapore | — |
| Kaying (Br.) Bangkok and | 19 |
| Swatow | — |
| Haining (Br.) Foochow and | 173 |
| Swatow | — |
| Dorcy (Ger.) Dalny and Hoi- | 12 |
| how | — |
| Tijlboet (Dut.) Samarang | 107 |
| and Amoy | — |
| Lushan Maru (Jap.) Shang- | 94 |
| hai and Swatow | — |
| Total | 1,743 |

Mr. E. Jackson-Casse, Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Blake, Mrs. W. J. Blake, Mr. A. Buchanan, Mr. F. Carmona, Mrs. G. E. Grimes, Miss R. F. Javier, Mr. G. E. McLean, Mr. E. W. Snyder, Mr. R. Bar-nalds, Rev. H. Steinfert, Miss L. Heck, Mrs. P. Del. Rozario.

DAILY WATERFRONT NEWS.

THE WEATHER.

The master of the s.s. Hai Ning reported yesterday that on the voyage from Swatow he had encountered overcast misty weather and a gentle North-East wind and sea. The master of the s.s. Akita Maru from Moji reported overcast weather and a rough sea with a North Easterly Gale.

DEATH AT SEA.

Captain J. G. Lindon, master of the s.s. Takada, which arrived here on Saturday morning, reported that while the vessel was on her way to Hong Kong from Singapore, a passenger died from beri-beri.

SHIPS IN HARBOUR.

The following ships were in harbour yesterday:—

Wharves.—Kowloon: Ermland, Pres. Madison; Holt's: Demodocus; A.P.C.—North Point: Utrecht; Secony—Lanchow: Independence; Douglas Laprak: Haining. Docks.—Kowloon: Luck Tray, Argonauta, Sui Tai, Feng Lee, Heiching, Hinsang, Venesia, Hop-sang, Lungshan, Yuen Sang, Tai-koo, Taiyo Maru, Szechuen, Kwangtung. Buoys.—A1 Tjikembang, A2 Tijlboet, A3 Tjikarang, A4 Talhybus, A5 Bonneville, A6 Taiyo Maru, B7 Kutsang, A8 Illinois, A10 Wo Fat Sang, B11 Kaying, C17 Halvard, C19 Tonkin, B30 Newchwang, B21 Ribera, C33 Yatshing, C35 Helios, B36 Bintang, B38 Hupch, C39 Printo, C40 Chengtu, C41 Dorcy, C42 Shunchih, C43 Wing Wo, C45 Marly, C46 Canton, B50 Gerania, B51 Sunland, B54 Totomi Maru, B55 Johgo Maru.

PASSENGERS.

Arrivals.

The following passengers arrived here by the Keonighers, from Shanghai:—Mrs. Zulin Weigel, Mr. Alexander Dobry, and Mr. Alfred Dobry.

Departures.

The following passengers left on the s.s. Empress of Canada on Monday for Manila:—Mr. Ah Tuck, Mr. Ah Fook, Mr. Ah Nien, Mr. J. F. Brophy, Mrs. Chia Si, Mr. Cheock See, Mr. Chiong She, Mr. Chiong Goe, Mr. Eng Si, Mr. Fong Shee, Mrs. A. M. C. Goday, Mr. Go Ho Lim, Mrs. H. C. Hazeland, Mr. K. Hirschberg, Mr. How She, Mr. Jaw Lau Bau Chuan, Mr. D. C. Kretzer, Mr. Kwan Chiang, Mr. Lolum Cheok, Mrs. Lee See, Mr. L. Shi, Mr. Ly Goy, Mr. R. B. Muniz, Mr. Ng Wong, Mr. and Mrs. A. Rocha, Mrs. Se To Moy, Mr. Tam Ngoy, Mr. Villaluna, Mr. V. F. Worcester, Mr. K. Wettermann, Mr. H. C. Whited, Mr. Wong Kiek, Mr. Hemandas Pessumal, Mr. Shanna Singh, Mr. Naraladas Wadumal, Mr. Assandass, Jechmal, Mr. Hiranand Motiram, Mrs. Alexander, Mrs. C. A. Martin, Mr. J. N. Owen, Mrs. M. Stafford, Mr. E. A. Stockton, Major A. M. Thompson, Mr. F. G. Villamil, Mrs. Treat, Miss Treat, Mr. and Mrs. Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Gaudner, Hon. Mr. Jus McCarthy, Mrs. E. M. McKay, Miss H. M. Pond, Mr. J. C. Lennie, Mr. B. G. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Reedy, Mr. Asuchenko, Mr. W. L. Griffiths, Mr. J. S. and Mrs. Smith. (Continued on preceding column).

ARRIVALS.

December 29.

Dorcy, German str., 878 tons, Capt. T. Bruhn, from Hoihow, buoy No. C41.—Chan Yue Teng. Tijlboet, Dutch str., 3,635 tons, Capt. P. P. Schuttenburg, from Amoy, buoy No. A2.—J.C.J.L. Totomi Maru, Japanese str., 2,004 tons, Capt. T. Stokomura, from Moji and Takakushi, buoy No. B54.—M.S.K.

Utrecht, Dutch str., 709 tons, Capt. F. Wildschut, from Swatow, Talkoktsui.—A.P.C.

December 30.

Akita Maru, Japanese str., 3,817 tons, Capt. K. Irobo, from Moji, Kowloon Wharf.—N.Y.K. Hai Ning, British str., 832 tons, Capt. A. H. Stewart, from Swatow, Douglas Wharf.—Douglas, Laprak & Co. Helios, Norwegian str., 1,113 tons, Capt. W. Haanevig, from Swatow, buoy No. C35.—Thoresen & Co.

Hupch, British str., 1,205 tons, Capt. W. L. Thomass, from Swatow, buoy No. C38.—B. & S. Illinois, American str., 3,362 tons, Capt. A. Wie, from Kobe, buoy No. A8.—States S.S. Co. Kaying, British str., 1,572 tons, Capt. F. A. Lovegrove, from Bangkok and Swatow, buoy No. B11.—B. & S.

Newchwang, British str., 1,482 tons, Capt. P. Green, from Canton, buoy No. B30.—B. & S.

President Pierce, American str., 3,383 tons, Capt. H. Nelson, from Shanghai, Kowloon Wharf.—Dollar S.S. Line.

Seang Bee, British str., 3,704 tons, Capt. J. G. Connor, from Swatow, Kowloon Bay.—Tuan Kee & Co.

Tjikembang, Dutch str., 5,023 tons, Capt. J. J. Duit, from Amoy, buoy No. A1.—J.C.J.L.

CLEARANCES.

December 30.

Akita Maru, for Singapore.

Antung, for Pass Throu.

Canton, for Haiphong.

Ermland, for Keelung.

Hydrangas, for Swatow.

Kut Sang, for Singapore.

Mau Sang, for Sandakan.

Newchwang, for Ningpo.

President Madison, for Shanghai.

Pronto, for Singapore.

Seang Bee, for Singapore.

Talhybus, for Miki.

Tijlboet, for Manila.

Tjikarang, for Amoy.

Tonkin, for K. C. Wan.

Utrecht, for Amoy.

Wing Wo, for K. C. Wan.

WARSHIPS IN PORT.

The following warships were in port yesterday:—

Basin.—Tamar, Sterling, Moorhen, Iroquois, Petersfield, Marston.

North Arm.—Thracian, Sirdar.

West Wall.—Kent.

In Dock.—Cornflower, Seraph.

No. 4 Buoy.—Herald.

No. 5 Buoy.—Hermes.

No. 6 Buoy.—Cornwall.

No. 10 Buoy.—Magnolia.

Foreign Men of War.—Chinese gunboat Kwang Kum.

P. & O., British India Apcar and Eastern & Australian Lines

(COMPANIES INCORPORATED IN ENGLAND).
MAIL AND PASSENGER STEAMERS
TAKING CARGO FOR

STRAITS, JAVA, BULMA, CEYLON, INDIA, PERSIAN GULF, WEST INDIES, MAURITIUS, EAST & SOUTH AFRICA, AUSTRALASIA, INCLUDING NEW ZEALAND & QUEENSLAND PORTS, RED SEA, EGYPT, CONSTANTINOPLE, GREECE, LEVANTINE PORTS, EUROPE, ETC.

PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL FORTNIGHTLY DIRECT ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS.
(Under Contract with H.M. Government.)

| Steamship | Tons | From Hongkong (about) | Destination |
|-------------|--------|-----------------------|---|
| "RAJPUTANA" | 16,568 | 4th Jan. Noon | B'bay, Marse & L'don. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 11th Jan. (Mars.) | L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 18th Jan. | Mars, London, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 25th Jan. | Strait, Colombo & Bombay. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 1st Feb. (Mars.) | L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 8th Feb. | Bombay, Marseilles & London. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 15th Feb. | Mars, L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 22nd Feb. | Strait, Colombo & Bombay. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 29th Feb. | Marseilles & London. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 6th Mar. (Mars.) | L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 13th Mar. | Mars, L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 20th Mar. | Bombay, Marseilles & London. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 27th Mar. | Mars, L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 4th Apr. | Strait, Colombo & Bombay. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 11th Apr. | Marseilles & London. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 18th Apr. | L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 25th Apr. | Mars, L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 2nd May | Bombay, Marseilles & London. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 9th May | Mars, L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 16th May | Strait, Colombo & Bombay. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 23rd May | Marseilles & London. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 30th May | L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 6th June | Mars, L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 13th June | Bombay, Marseilles & London. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 20th June | Mars, L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 27th June | Strait, Colombo & Bombay. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 4th July | Marseilles & London. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 11th July | L'don, Hull, B'g, R'dm. & A'warp. |

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Frequent connections from Port Said for Passengers and Cargo to Constantinople, Piraeus, Smyrna, and other Levant Ports by steamers of the P. & O. Mail Steamship Co.

BRITISH INDIA-APCAR SAILINGS

| Steamship | Tons | From Hongkong (about) | Destination |
|-----------|--------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| "TALAMBA" | 5,018 | 6th Jan. | Singapore, Penang & Calcutta |
| "TAKADA" | 6,949 | 21st Jan. | do. |
| "TALMA" | 10,000 | 2nd Feb. | do. |
| "SHIRALA" | 7,841 | 8th Feb. | do. |
| "TAKIWA" | 7,938 | 15th Feb. | do. |
| "TILAWA" | 10,006 | 3rd Mar. | do. |

* Calls Rangoon.

B.I.—Apcar Line steamers have excellent accommodation for 1st and 2nd class passengers. All steamers are fitted with wireless and carry a qualified surgeon.

EASTERN AND AUSTRALIAN SAILINGS (SOUTH)

| Steamship | Tons | From Hongkong (about) | Destination |
|--------------|-------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| "ST. ALBANS" | 4,500 | 3rd Jan. 4 p.m. | Manila, Sandakan, Thursday |
| "NELLORE" | 6,883 | 31st Jan. | Island, Townsville, Brisbane, |
| "TANDA" | 6,966 | 29th Feb. | Sydney and Melbourne |

* Calls Port Holland.

Regular Monthly Sailings from Hong Kong to Japan & Hong Kong to Australia. The E. & A. S.S. Co. Ltd., steamers will also call at Shanghai, Hio, Cebu, Kolambagan, Tawao, Timor, Darwin, or other ports en route as indicated.

Frequent connections from Australia with the following:—

The Union S.S. Co.'s Steamers to the United Kingdom via New Zealand, Vancouver, San Francisco, etc.

The P. & O. Royal Mail Steamers to London via Suez Canal.

The P. & O. Branch Service of Steamers to London via the Cape.

The New Zealand Shipping Co.'s Steamers for Southampton and London via Panama Canal.

SAILINGS TO SHANGHAI AND JAPAN

| Steamship | Tons | From Hongkong (about) | Destination |
|--------------|--------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| "MANTUA" | 10,948 | 4th Jan. | S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "NELLORE" | 6,883 | 7th Jan. | Moji, Kobe, Osaka & Yokohama. |
| "KIDDERPORE" | 6,883 | 14th Jan. | Kobe only. |
| "TALMA" | 10,000 | 15th Jan. | Amoy, Moji, Kobe & Osaka. |
| "KARMALA" | 9,125 | 15th Jan. | S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "SHIRALA" | 7,841 | 15th Jan. | Amoy, Moji, Kobe & Osaka. |
| "KASHMIR" | 8,885 | 25th Jan. | S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "TAKIWA" | 7,938 | 25th Jan. | Amoy, Moji, Kobe & Osaka. |
| "MACEDONIA" | 11,120 | 31st Jan. | S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "TANDA" | 6,958 | 4th Feb. | Moji, Kobe, Osaka & Yokohama. |
| "TILAWA" | 10,006 | 10th Feb. | Amoy, Moji, Kobe & Osaka. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 14th Feb. | S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "RAWALPINDI" | 16,519 | 28th Feb. | S'hai, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "MALWA" | 10,950 | 14th Mar. | S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Y'hama. |
| "RAJPUTANA" | 16,568 | 28th Mar. | S'hai, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "KEYBER" | 9,114 | 6th Apr. | S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "KASHGAR" | 9,005 | 10th Apr. | do. |
| "MANTUA" | 10,948 | 25th Apr. | do. |
| "KHIVA" | 9,135 | 6th May | do. |
| "RANPURA" | 16,601 | 23rd May | do. |
| "KARMALA" | 9,125 | 6th June | do. |
| "MOREA" | 10,954 | 20th June | do. |
| "KALYAN" | 16,568 | 8th July | do. |
| "RAJPUTANA" | 16,568 | 18th July | Shanghai, Kobe & Y'hama. |
| "KASHMIR" | 8,885 | 31st July | S'hai, Moji, Kobe & Yokohama. |
| "MANTUA" | 10,948 | 15th Aug. | do. |
| "KASHGAR" | 9,005 | 28th Aug. | do. |
| "MALWA" | 10,950 | 12th Sept. | do. |
| "KHIVA" | 9,135 | 26th Sept. | do. |
| "MOREA" | 10,954 | 10th Oct. | do. |

